BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO. 135 BENGALURU | MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 30 | PRICE ₹5**

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES AND *10 PAGES OF EDUCATION TIMES (*CITY AREAS ONLY)

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Debutant spinner Manav Suthar takes three wickets as Afghanistan struggle at 113-5 in reply to India's 564-8 declared in the one-off Test, P 14

Deve Gowda out of RS fray; BJP list out

BJP's central parliamentary committee named Dr M Nagaraj, former party state vice-president, as candidate for Rajya Sabha polls in a post-midnight announcement Sunday. With this, the decision has been taken not to nominate former prime minister HD Deve Gowda from alliance partner JDS quota. Along with Nagaraj, the party has also nominated Lingaraj Patil and Raghu Kautilya for the legislative council. While Patil had aspired for teachers' constituency ticket to the council, Kautilya is the OBC morcha chairman of the state unit. TNN

B'luru woman dies in Kodagu homestay

A 27-year-old woman from Bengaluru holidaying in Kodagu died of asphyxiation due to poisonous gas leakage from the gas geyser at a homestay in Somwarpet on Sunday. **Vinuta** and 13 colleagues from a city-based healthcare-solutions firm arrived in Kodagu Saturday on a two-day trip. TNN

Oppn eyes reset in INDIA bloc meeting today

Opposition parties will hold their first major INDIA bloc meeting since LS 2024 polls, aiming to address electoral setbacks and BJP's growing strength. Internal disputes involving Congress, DMK, and CPM may overshadow talks. Politicians are expected to focus on alliance unity & strategy for future political battles. **P 8**

Boy electrocuted while cleaning sump

A boy, Ariful Islam (12), son of migrant scrap collectors, allegedly died of electrocution after entering a water sump in Bellahalli, reportedly at neighbours' request to collect water. His family suspected an electrical fault. The house owner has been booked under child labour laws. **P 3**

DU prof's tenants killed her: Police

A dispute over an ancestral Bengal property was allegedly behind DU professor Debosmita Paul's murder. Police arrested a couple and detained their son (13). Cops said they planned the murder and came to Delhi disguised as tourists. **P 9**

NEET paper setters to be in lockdown till re-exam

No Phone, Net; Team Housed At Secret Location

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New Delhi: In one of the most stringent examination-related security exercises undertaken in recent years, all experts involved in setting, moderating and translating the NEET-UG 2026 retest question paper have been moved to a secure, undisclosed location and placed under strict isolation protocols. Authorities are virtually eliminating external communication in the final stages of paper preparation.

The "lockdown" will be in place till the end of the examination on June 21.

The extraordinary arrangements are part of a sweeping overhaul of the examination security architecture following the paper leak controversy that forced cancellation of the May NEET-UG examination and triggered nationwide concern among more than 22 lakh candidates.

▶Answer-sheet database to govt-controlled servers, P 5

▶Digital device curbs, P 9

Physics tops re-eval grading complaints

Among re-evaluation requests from thousands of CBSE Class 12 students, physics tops the list of grading complaints, with examinees alleging missing marks, uncredited step-marking, and unmarked pages. In one case, a student found the answer sheet uploaded was not his. **P 5**

Deadline-day portal glitches spook kids

Students across India were locked out of CBSE's Class XII re-evaluation portal on Sunday as the clock ticked on the midnight deadline for applications. Applicants reported login failures, "Roll Number Not Found" errors, payment issues, captcha failures and pages that refused to load. **P 5**

Israel hits Beirut, Iran retaliates with missiles

Israel struck outskirts of Beirut on Sunday for the first time since the United States announced a truce plan for Lebanon last week. In retaliation, Iran launched at least two waves of missiles at Israel, the first such strike since the April ceasefire, Iranian media reported. Sirens were also sounded in Jordan.

▶Threat of Israel spying critical: Pentagon, P 12
▶Opec+ approves 4th output quota hike, P 12

Earlier in the day, Israeli military said it had struck Hezbollah infrastructure in Beirut's southern suburbs after the group fired at northern Israel, prompting fears of a new escalation. Lebanese state media reported two dead and 11 injured in an initial toll. **Earlier report, P 12**

DKS chants 3A, amity mantra for Kanakapura

Says Ashraya, Arogya, Akshara The Way Forward

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka chief minister DK Shivakumar Sunday made an appeal to his constituency — Kanakapura in Bengaluru South district — to maintain peace and harmony, instructed police to not register frivolous cases, urged farmers to stay focused on agriculture which is "more lucrative than urban jobs" and claimed land prices in his home district have "quadrupled" ever since Ramanagara was renamed in a brand-upgrade exercise.

He listed 3As — Ashraya, Arogya and Akshara (shelter, health and education) — as priorities for the region, and said CSR schools will be established in one-in-three taluks.

In his first barnstorming rally of his home district as CM, Shivakumar kicked off his Janashirvada yatra (seeking blessings from his constituents) and visited about a dozen villages in and around Kanakapura. During pitstops and temple visits, he spoke about his vision for the region and the state.

PTI

LIFE ON A METRO: CM DK Shivakumar took Namma Metro from Vidhana Soudha to Kanakapura Road Sunday morning. He interacted with commuters, and smilingly accepted selfie requests

▶'Be wary of SIR', P 4

Hyd family seeks body of son shot in US

Family of Hyderabad native Anshul Kuncha, 28, who was shot dead while delivering pizzas in Philadelphia, Sunday urged Centre and Telangana govt to expedite repatriation of his body. Police suspect he was lured to a vacant flat through a fake order. Indian consulate said it was in touch with the family while extending assistance. **P 12**

This yr, IITs add 666 seats, intake rises to 18,826

IITs have increased seats by more than 600 this year, taking the total intake to 18,826, against 18,160 last year. The largest hike is in IIT Jodhpur, with 140 added seats, followed by IIT Mandi with 120 extra seats, **reports Hemali Chhapia.** Many new courses have been introduced, including quantum science and engineering, and environmental economics. **P 5**

Parents can accompany Vaibhav, 15, on tour: BCCI

Mumbai: At 15, **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** can already clear any boundary in the world. But the ones that Indian cricket now worries about lie far beyond the ropes.

BCCI has arranged for Sanjeev, father of the left-handed batting prodigy, to join him in Sri Lanka ahead of the 50-over tri-series, said secretary Devajit Saikia Sunday.

"Vaibhav was selected for India A team a few days ago, and soon he will be a part of the senior men's team. To make him comfortable with the new environment, with him being a child, we have arranged for his father to go to Sri Lanka," Saikia told IANS. TNN

▶To make comfortable, P 14

I will stick to my turf, nothing more: Reddy

Bengaluru: After firefighting by Congress bosses and CM DK Shivakumar, senior leader **Ramalinga Reddy** Sunday let loose a second googly, saying he would soon take charge of the major irrigation department but restrict himself to BTM Layout, his constituency, and nothing beyond, **reports Sandeep Moudgal.** In fresh trouble for the Bengaluru-polls-bound Congress, the minister said he will "not even consider" Bengaluru development even if offered in the future.

▶'Closed chapter', P 2

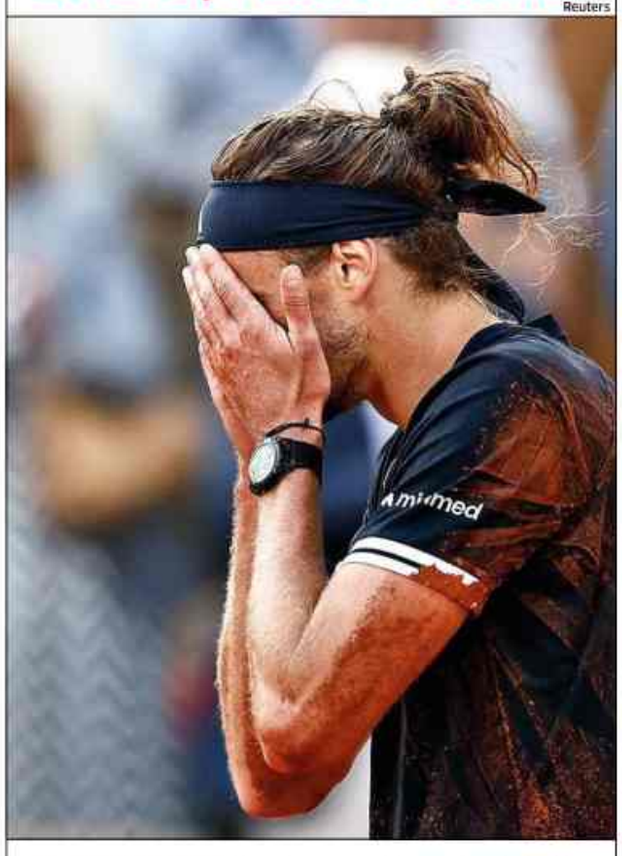
K'taka plans to fill 900-doc shortage via contract route

Mangaluru: Health and family welfare minister UT Khader Sunday said Karnataka is facing a shortage of 900 MBBS doctors and announced a simplified hiring process to fill vacancies on contract. He said, "Contract doctors will receive a monthly salary of Rs 60,000." TNN

▶Contact DHOs, P 4

ZVEREV, TALL AND GRAND

Reuters



MUD, SWEAT AND TEARS: Alexander Zverev celebrates after winning his first Grand Slam defeating Italy's Flavio Cobolli in Paris on Sunday. The 6'6" stood tall to score a 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-1 win over Cobolli in 4 hours and 16 minutes to wear the crown. The second seed became the first German man to win a major tournament since Boris Becker at 1996 Australian Open | **P 14**

Stopped from gaming, Koppal teen kills dad & sis, injures mom

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gangavathi (Koppal): An 18-year-old PU student allegedly stabbed his father, mother and elder sister in Gangavathi taluk of Koppal district on Saturday night after being advised against playing online mobile games. While his father and sister died, his mother has sustained grievous injuries.'

Sai Venkat Manideep allegedly stabbed himself after the attack spree and is undergoing treatment along with his mother, Soujanya, at VIMS Hospital in Ballari.

Police identified the deceased as Venkat Naidu, 45, a cook at a private school, and his 19-year-old daughter, Pragathi. The incident took place at Hosa Ayodhya village under the Gangavathi Rural police station limits on the night of June 6.

According to the complaint, Venkat Naidu, his wife, their two children and his parents had dinner together before retiring for the night.

▶Grandpa seeks help, P 3

Banking, insurance cases lead consumer complaints

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Bengaluru: For many consumers, the real test of a bank or insurance policy begins when they need help. Increasingly, that is also when disputes begin.

Banking and insurance complaints continued to rise in Karnataka during 2025-26, according to data from the Karnataka State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (KSCDRC), highlighting persistent concerns over claim rejections, service deficiencies and consumer awareness.

Cases against banks increased from 35,954 in March 2025 to 37,897 in March 2026. Insurance-related complaints rose from 74,364 to 77,397 during the same period.

In banking-related cases, Belagavi topped with 13,240 cases filed and 12,601 disposed of, followed by Mysuru, which recorded 2,009 cases filed and 1,993 disposed, and Dharwad with 1,361 cases filed and 1,238 disposed of.

STAFF SHORTAGE

Data shows **15 vacancies for presidents and 13 member posts across district consumer commissions.** Despite staffing shortages, officials said Karnataka has improved case disposal rates through administrative reforms, with district commissions disposing of more than 97% of cases filed since inception.

▶Fine print, P 2

New year, yet no bench or desks in govt schools

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Bengaluru: Days after the state govt rolled out its ambitious plan to convert govt schools in 15 districts from the Nali Kali system to monograde bilingual classrooms, several govt schools across Karnataka are struggling with an embarrassing reality: No benches or desks and, in some cases, not even enough classrooms.

GROUND CHECK

The transition, effective June 1, was meant to move away from the decades-old Nali Kali model, where Classes 1 to 3 learnt together in a play-based, activity-oriented environment, often seated on the floor. While the policy changed overnight, the infrastructure did not.

A reality check by **TOI** across multiple districts found children continuing to sit on floors, crouching over the books as they write.

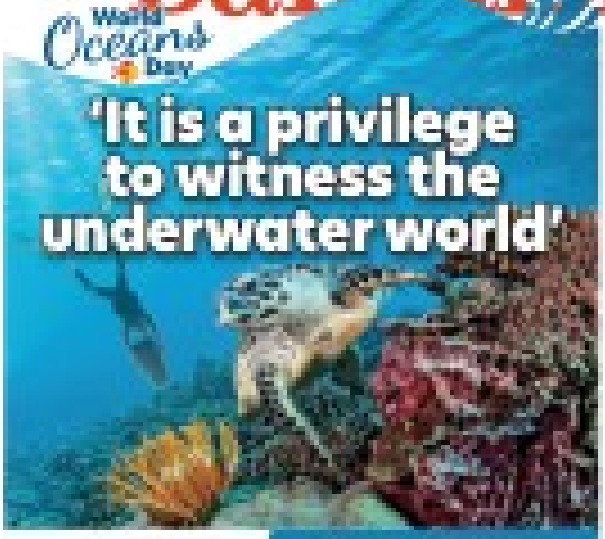
> Govt schools have enough infrastructure. All it needs is redeployment — moving them from schools that do not need them to the others. Additionally, procurement and delivery of new furniture is underway. Schools need not look for private funding. This is just the beginning of the academic year. Initial hiccups will be sorted out soon.
> **Rashmi V Mahesh** | ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY

▶Schools seek donors, P 2

Bangalore Times

World Oceans Day

'It is a privilege to witness the underwater world'



SRK signs on as ambassador for experience-led campaign

National award-winning Malayalam actor Salim Kumar passes away at 56

Buzzstop

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THE PATH TO EXCELLENCE

Four years on, CUET UG still grapples with exam centre chaos and technical glitches

Academicians should be given a greater role in examination design, say experts

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BONDING OVER THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

City Footy Fans Gear Up For Sleepless World Cup Nights

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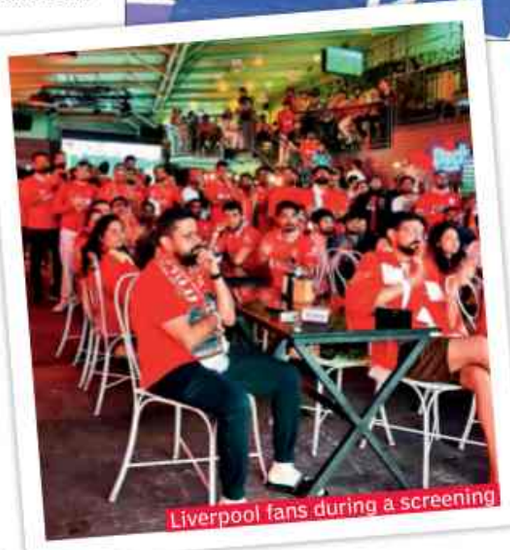
Football fever is building across Bengaluru, uniting fans beyond club loyalties, as the 2026 FIFA World Cup approaches. With the tournament set to be held in the United States, Mexico and Canada from June 11 to July 19, the city's football communities are gearing up for weeks of late-night screenings, banter, shared passion and sleepless nights.

Across the city, fans of the 'beautiful game' are preparing to gather at pubs, cafes and living rooms, transforming everyday spaces into arenas of celebration and heartbreak. As the prestigious tournament unfurls, these gatherings promise high drama and emotions.

SEA OF BLUE: The West Block Blues fans are known for their vociferous support at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium



Liverpool fans during a screening

Among Bengaluru's most passionate football communities are Bengaluru FC's core fan groups — West Block Blues and North End Blues — which are known for their unwavering support. Their chants, colours and infectious energy transform every home game at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium into a carnival of celebration.

Yet, as the quadrennial event inches closer, club loyalties are briefly taking a back seat to international team allegiances. Conversations across fan groups are increasingly dominated by World Cup chatter.

"The inclusion of Neymar in Brazil's squad became one of the talking points on our WhatsApp groups a couple of days back. Now, there is some chat about the Spanish team," says Manoj Mallaraddi, a key member of the North End Blues, formed in 2021. "With our group comprising different supporters (of international teams) too, there are bound to be healthy disagreements and debates once the tournament starts." With the Indian Super League in its off-season, fans now have more time to immerse themselves in World Cup fever and pull out their international jerseys from the cupboard. Members of the West Block Blues have already begun planning screenings and meet-ups, aiming to recreate the community experience that defines the tournament.

However, there is one hurdle. With matches scheduled across North America, most games will kick off well past midnight for Indian viewers. While English Premier League fixtures attract good crowds at pubs due to favourable timings and weekend schedules, most of the World Cup games are scheduled to start after 12.30am.

For many fans, though, the sacrifice is well worth it. Sharmista Shankarnarayana, an active member of the West Block Blues, is prepared to go nocturnal, especially for key matches.

"During the last World Cup in 2022, we gathered at each other's homes to watch matches. That's likely to be the plan this time too, depending on the schedule. The most important thing is being together. Because of our work and other commitments, we don't get to meet as much as we want. Football is what connects us and brings our group together," she says.

Such meet-ups often extend beyond match screenings, with fans bonding over FIFA video games and long conversations.

The late-night kick-offs have also sparked creative solutions. Akshay Hebbar, an ardent Chelsea fan working in the corporate sector, has already secured permission to watch select early-morning matches with colleagues in the office.

"There is plenty of banter in the office because we support different clubs and national teams. We constantly debate about football, and everyone is excited about watching the World Cup together, probably while having breakfast too," he said.

Love For The Game Stands Tall

Football's appeal in Bengaluru extends well beyond its domestic club. Support for European clubs such as Manchester United, Liverpool and others runs equally deep. During major club fixtures, pubs across the city are packed with supporters dressed in team colours, singing club anthems and creating an electrifying atmosphere.

This passion rarely ends with the final whistle. Win or lose, discussions spill over into late night hangouts at a friend's home, with fans discussing key moments over food and drinks. The same ritual is expected to intensify during the World Cup.

Most fan clubs in the city have designated pubs for game screenings, and the atmosphere is especially vibrant during big games. This fervour was on full display when Liverpool FC secured their historic 20th English League title last year.

"When we won the title, all of us were together at a pub. I can't describe the feeling. We sang Liverpool songs, chanted players' names and celebrated every moment. Red flares were lit and everyone kept shouting, 'Liverpool are the champions'," recalls Keshav Jha, a member of the Official Liverpool Supporters Club (OLSC), Bangalore.

An ardent Red Devils fan, Chetan Dumawat, at the National Football Museum in Manchester in 2018

The OLSC also organises football tournaments and social events for members, helping strengthen bonds within the community. "I have managed to make good friends through the group. The bonding has also increased as we have watched matches together on many occasions."

For some supporters, passion for the game goes beyond screenings and social gatherings. Chetan Dumawat, a member of the Manchester United Supporters Club, Bengaluru, travelled more than 8,000 km to fulfil his lifelong dream of watching the Red Devils play at Old Trafford in 2018.

"I had never seen such a big stadium in my life. With the kind of history it has, it was a dream come true to watch my (favourite) team, who beat Liverpool that day. Overall, it was the best experience of my life," said Dumawat, who brought back Manchester United scarves and jerseys as memorabilia.

Likewise, three members of the Bengaluru Citizens, a Manchester City supporters' group, also witnessed history in Istanbul as the club won its maiden UEFA Champions League title by defeating Inter Milan in the final.

Be it World Cup or football leagues, for these passionate football lovers, the sport is as much about community as it is about the game and about friendships forged, memories created and moments shared. It remains, in every sense, a beautiful game.

Mural celebrates Sundaravana's green revival

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The paintbrush has proved mightier than the sword once again, and Bengaluru's citizens have shown how.

When a wall near Sundaravana became an eyesore, people chose action over complaint. Volunteers from Rang 4 A Cause, Community Task Force Charitable Trust (CTFCT), Rotary Bengaluru HSR, and SayTrees came together with a shared vision: to create meaningful public art. The result is a striking mural that not only beautifies the space but also educates visitors about environmental stewardship.

The mural features four noted environmentalists—Saalumarada Thimmakka, Tulsi Gowda, Vandana Shiva, and Rahibai Soma Pop-are—alongside illustrations of birds, butterflies, insects, reptiles, flowers, and native trees, bringing the essence of an urban forest onto the wall.

Sundaravana mural

SPREADING GREEN VIBES: Nagachandu U, a passionate artist and social media head of Rang 4 A Cause created an abstract inspired by the earthy colours of nature

Through pictorial storytelling, the artwork traces Sundaravana's inspiring journey, helping visitors understand its origins and purpose. More than 80 volunteers—artists and non-artists, children and senior citizens—worked for six days, from planning to execution, including cleaning, whitewashing, and touch-ups to create the mural. "Only about half were artists; for the rest, it became a hands-on learning experience," says Raghav Uppar, 28, a self-taught artist and founder of Rang 4 a Cause, an NGO dedicated to art and education that led the mural project at Sundaravana. Uppar, who through his flagship initiative, RANG DOO, has revamped over 15 lakh sq. ft. of public spaces added, "The artwork embodies the power of collaboration and collective action."

Sundaravana was heavily polluted with plastic earlier. Venkatesh HS, president of CTF, said ,"We removed plastic from the top two feet, improved the soil with a mix including manure, hay, and red soil. The land was transformed into a Miyawaki forest with 14,000 trees. Fallen fruits and vegetables are not harvested for sale; they contribute back as manure."

> The Sundaravana Wall Mural Project cost close to Rs 1,00,000. The funds were raised mainly through social media. The wall that measures close to 300 feet now stands as a testament to community spirit.
>
> **Gayathri Shekar** | TRUSTEE, COMMUNITY TASK FORCE CHARITABLE TRUST

TIMES CITY

DCM: Portfolio situation a closed chapter

▶Continued from page 1

Reddy told **TOI**: "I shall limit my work to BTM Layout. I will not go over and beyond it in the city." It is a broad hint he would not involve himself in the upcoming GBA elections to the five corporations. "It (irrigation) has been offered to me. I shall do better work than any other minister," he said.

The hands-off approach of the minister may spell a bigger crisis for Congress since he has an influential presence in the city elections. His statement possibly puts an end to any talk of "cooperation" for party work in the coming weeks and months. Sources claimed the decision comes in the wake of a comparatively "junior" minister in Krishna Byre Gowda taking charge as Bengaluru development minister and being forced to go to him seeking funds and assistance for his areas in the city.

Deputy CM G Parameshwara dismissed any further development on the portfolio situation and said all issues have been resolved. "The CM will decide on allocating the rest of the portfolios...," he added.

Schools seek donors as furniture woes hit young learners in state

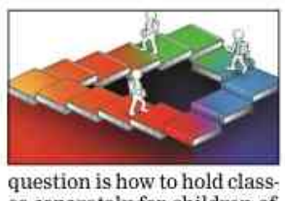
▶Continued from page 1

In many classrooms, children are seated around the room, leaning on the walls, with the teacher seated on a chair in the middle of the room. In some schools, small plastic chairs are available. But with no desks, they keep the books on their laps to write.

Headmasters said they plan to seek donations and CSR funding to purchase basic classroom furniture. "Earlier, the department had sought data on the infrastructure availability. We are hoping something comes by. Otherwise, we will have to look for donors. If we have to make it look like proper classrooms, a minimum amount of furniture is required," said a headmistress of a primary school in Bengaluru.

Some schools also said they do not have enough classrooms to seat the children separately grade-wise. "We have classrooms, but not enough teachers. There are three teachers and five classes. So classes 1 and 2 are sitting together," said a teacher from east Bengaluru.

A member of the teachers' association from Mysuru said: "Cancellation of Nali Kali is a good move. But the



question is how to hold classes separately for children of classes 1-3 without sufficient infrastructure. LKG and UKG classes also have been started in many schools without sufficient furniture procurement. Primary school students are given stepmotherly treatment," he said.

Some dists are better off

Deputy director of public instruction (DDPI) GS Shashidhar said schools in Dakshina Kannada generally possess basic infrastructure facilities. Under the Nali Kali programme, primary schools were provided child-friendly furniture, including small chairs, desks and moon-shaped tables, he noted.

There are, however, a few exceptions. For instance, Dakshina Kannada Zilla Panchayat Govt Higher Primary School, Mularapatna (Urdu), Rayi in Bantwal, students are attending classes seated on carpets due to a shortage of benches and desks. The school urgently requires 17 sets of benches and desks. The school currently has 65 students studying in Classes 1 to 3. "Since it has begun raining and the floors are cold, students are made to sit on carpets."

Bantwal BEO has initiated a drive to identify schools facing furniture shortages and has asked head teachers to submit their requirements. Around 60 primary schools in the block have sought benches and desks, hoping either for govt support or sponsorship from donors.

Schools in Dharwad district also mentioned that sufficient benches and desks are available, many of which are provided by donors. HM Fadneshi, BEO, Hubballi city, said most schools already had benches and desks, and some had ground tables and small chairs donated by organisations.

Officials said a clearer picture of the requirement across the district is likely to emerge once the admission process is completed by the end of this month.

(With additional inputs from Shrinivasa M in Mysuru, Deepthi S in Mangaluru, Akshaykumar in Hubballi and Mrityunjay Yallapurmath in Belagavi)

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Fitness Meets Fun IN KORAMANGALA

Pics: Chethan Shivakumar

Veera Yodhara Vana Park and the streets surrounding it in Koramangala transformed into a community space Sunday as Happy Streets by **The Times of India**, presented by Bhima Jewellers, drew residents for a morning of fitness, culture, and social engagement.

The event began with a meditation session led by Heartfulness, followed by yoga and pranayama sessions conducted by Sarvebhavanthu Sukhinah Yoga. Adding energy to the morning, Swingers Dance Inc hosted a Zumba session, encouraging participants across age groups to "break a leg".

The pace slowed later with music and interactive activities. Mic & Melody delivered a live performance, while From Mug to Mike engaged attendees with Kannada singing sessions. NeeRav Arts Village introduced visitors to traditional Mudgar exercises, offering many a chance to try the practice firsthand.

Koramangala resident Srinivas Rao, 72, said he was particularly drawn to the Mudgar demonstrations. "Usually I come to this park for a morning walk, but today I found the traditional Mudgar exercise interesting. This is a good community event to unite people. The young people performing Zumba was a delight to watch," he said.

YOGA MATS TO KARATE: Koramangala residents turned out in large numbers for Happy Streets, enjoying a Sunday morning of music, art, civic engagement, and community bonding

Alert NGO conducted CPR awareness and training sessions, giving participants practical knowledge on responding to emergencies. Presenting sponsor Bhima Jewellers attracted crowds through a quiz and lucky draw.

The event also showcased local enterprise and civic engagement. Street vendors sold Coorg avocados and passion fruit, while the Reclaim Constitution group distributed copies of the Constitution's Preamble, encouraging conversations around citizenship and shared values. The Postcrossing Welfare Society of India introduced visitors to philately and postcard exchanges, highlighting the enduring appeal of handwritten communication.

The morning concluded with a demonstration by Aryan Martial Arts, where young karate practitioners showcased their skills by breaking clay tiles with their bare hands.

TOI
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Expert: Consumers caught out by insurance fine print

▶Continued from page 1

In the insurance segment, Haveri led with 5,330 cases filed and 5,300 disposed of, followed by Dharwad with 3,567 cases filed and 3,397 disposed, and Gadag with 2,728 cases filed and 2,705 disposed of.

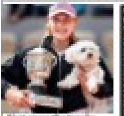
Behind the numbers are consumers who say they are struggling to obtain settlements despite years of paying premiums. A 63-year-old resident of Jayanagar said he and his wife had purchased health insurance to avoid financial dependence during medical emergencies. However, when his wife underwent surgery, the insurer rejected the claim citing policy clauses that he said were never adequately explained. "Despite paying nearly Rs 2-3 lakh in premiums over the years, we had to bear the expenses ourselves. Even after securing a consumer court order in our favour, we have not received the money," he said.

Consumer rights activists attribute many disputes to poor understanding of policy terms and inadequate communication at the time of sale. YG Muralidharan, founding member of Consumer Rights Education and Awareness Trust, said consumers are often not informed about exclusions, cancellation clauses and other conditions until a dispute arises. He also called for greater awareness programmes.

Education should go beyond classroom and exams: Educator

UP TO DATE

WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY



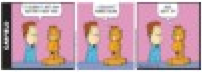
First came the trophy, then the tail wags

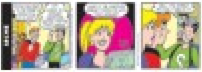
Vaishali wins WR Women's Chess Tour in Tokyo Championship

Callum Turner and Dua Lipa are married - again

YOUR POV

LEISURE





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AI will not replace CAs but redefine their productivity: ICAI president

Q&A

MSMEs to get new 'mitras' for affordable professional help

IPL ticket scam: Woman loses over ₹18L while trying to fulfil dad's wish

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Bengaluru: What began as an effort to fulfil her cancer-stricken father's wish to watch an Indian Premier League match turned into a financial nightmare for a 31-year-old woman, who lost more than Rs 18.4 lakh to cybercrooks posing as ticket sellers.

According to a complaint filed by Mamata (name changed), a resident of Sarabandepalya, her father wished to watch an IPL match at M Chinnaswamy Stadium. While she was searching for tickets online, she came across a man identifying himself as Navaneetha Krishnan on Instagram. Using the Instagram handle 'nav_krishnan,' the crook claimed he could arrange IPL match tickets on April 23 and provided a WhatsApp number, 6360670695, for further communication.

Trusting his assurances, Mamata initially transferred Rs 15,000 for two tickets. Soon afterwards, she was asked to pay an additional Rs 6,000, which she was told would be refunded when the tickets were handed over at the stadium. The fraud allegedly escalated when another person, Yuvaraj, contacted her via WhatsApp and shared the purported ticket-booking details. Subsequently, claiming that the booked tickets were "sponsor tickets" that had been cancelled, Krishnan persuaded her to pay an additional Rs 12,000 for replacement tickets in another stand. She paid up, desperate to fulfil her father's wish.

However, the demands did not stop there. The complainant was allegedly told that the tickets were not seated together. When she asked for ticket cancellation, the crooks told her she had to pay another Rs 3,000 to do so. Later, on May 4, Yuvaraj called her and claimed that a refund was being processed, but she needed to pay another Rs 5,000 to complete the transaction.

The accused continued to manipulate the complainant with promises of refunds and ticket confirmations. Over time, citing various reasons, they allegedly induced her to transfer a staggering Rs 18.4 lakh through her two bank accounts and her mother's account. Police said the fraudsters briefly transferred Rs 2.4 lakh to the complainant as a purported refund, only to convince her to send the amount back as part of the ongoing "refund process". They later made her transfer back the Rs 2.4 lakh.

Despite receiving substantial payments, the fraudsters never delivered any IPL tickets or refunded the money. Realising she had been cheated, the woman lodged a police complaint on June 4. A case has been registered under BNS Section 318 (cheating) and the Information Technology Act.

Boy, 12, electrocuted while cleaning neighbour's sump

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Bengaluru: A routine afternoon in a makeshift settlement on the city's outskirts ended in tragedy when a 12-year-old boy died after entering a water sump near his family's temporary shelter at Bellahalli village near Yelahanka, allegedly at the request of some neighbours.

Ariful Islam, son of migrant scrap collectors from Assam, died on June 4 after he was allegedly asked to fetch water and clean a sump on the premises of a house behind the family's shed. According to a complaint filed by his father, Nur Bokto Miah, Ariful was playing with his younger brother, Shorifullah, around 2pm when two women approached the children and allegedly handed them a bucket, asking the former to get into the sump to collect water.

Moments later, Shorifullah ran back to the family's shed crying and screaming for help. The younger boy led his father to the sump, saying Ariful had entered it after being instructed to do so. Miah found his son floating face down and motionless in the sump, which is said to have contained 1.5-2ft of water.

Other labourers living in nearby sheds joined the rescue effort. Shorifullah told them that the women had offered money to the children to fetch water and clean the sump. Family members and neighbours present at the scene suspected that Ariful may have suffered an electric shock. A man at the spot allegedly removed a wire connected to a water motor before the boy was pulled out.

Ariful was rushed in a scrap-collecting autorickshaw to a nearby clinic, where doctors advised the family to shift him to a hospital. He was taken to Yelahanka govt hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

In his complaint, Miah accused house owner Syed Imran Ali, his wife, and daughter of negligence. He alleged that his son was asked to enter the sump without any precautions.

CCB busts fake marks card racket in B'luru

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Bengaluru: In a major crackdown on an education fraud network, the special inquiry wing of Central Crime Branch (CCB) has unearthed a racket that allegedly supplied fake academic certificates and marks cards to students in exchange for money, bypassing the need for actual education or exams.

Based on credible information, cops raided Digital Distance Education Mission in Koramangala 5th Block Friday. According to a complaint filed by inspector SR Veerendra Prasad, the police commissioner asked him to verify the allegations against the centre. Police got confirmation that the centre was involved in issuing fake certificates, and a raid was conducted. The proprietor of the centre, Raja Reddy, allegedly targeted students by obtaining their mobile phone numbers and contacting them through his staff. The students were lured with promises of admission to reputed institutions, including Florence College, Kalaniketan College, MVJ College, Tipu Sultan College, and Vidyaranya College.

According to police, the students were offered an illegal shortcut to academic qualifications. Without completing SSLC (class 10), PUC (class 12), or attending regular college courses, they were allegedly assured direct degree certificates upon payments ranging from Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000.

Sources said the fake academic records were prepared with the help of Aryan alias Tanumoy Debroy.

'Can't stop cooking': Costly gas hits household budgets

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With domestic LPG cylinder costing Rs 944, many people said they have started changing their cooking habits to make gas last longer than earlier

Bengaluru: The latest increase in domestic LPG prices has left many Bengaluru households reworking their monthly budgets, with consumers saying the impact goes far beyond the Rs 29 rise announced this week.

The revision takes the price of a 14.2kg domestic LPG cylinder in Bengaluru to Rs 944.5, slightly higher than Delhi's Rs 942. The increase comes barely three months after a Rs 60 hike in March, meaning consumers are now paying nearly Rs 90 more per cylinder than they were at the beginning of the year.

For many residents, the concern is not the latest increase alone, but the cumulative effect of rising cooking and food costs.

Several people living in shared accommodations and rented homes said they have started changing their cooking habits to make the gas last longer. While giving up LPG entirely is not an option, many said they are increasingly relying on induction stoves, electric kettles and air fryers for smaller cooking tasks. Others said they have begun preparing more salads and simple meals that require less cooking time.

The challenge, they say, is that eating out is not a cheaper alternative.

The recent increases in commercial LPG prices have pushed up costs for eateries, forcing many establishments to revise menu prices. As a result, consumers find themselves caught between higher cooking costs at home and more expensive meals outside.

Shyamala James, a city resident, said, "Being part of a middle-class family, the increase in LPG prices may appear modest, but it adds to the growing pressure on household budgets. Every rupee counts when families are already dealing with rising costs of groceries, education, healthcare and other essentials. Such increases directly affect monthly financial planning and make it more difficult for households to balance their expenses."

The ripple effects are felt across small businesses as well. K Ravi, a chartered accountant, said that while the govt has attempted to shield domestic consumers from the full impact of rising global LPG prices, businesses have borne a much larger burden.

Restaurant owner Abul Hassan said the situation has become increasingly difficult for small establishments. "The impact is being felt both at home and in business. We have already been forced to increase menu prices because of higher fuel costs. When restaurants pay more for cooking fuel, consumers inevitably pay more for food. Now, with domestic LPG prices also increasing, households are facing a double burden," he said.

Pratima Manohar, an urbanist, said the latest hike highlights how global conflicts eventually affect local households. "The LPG hike may have been inevitable given rising international fuel prices, but its impact will be felt across households and businesses alike," she said.

Top cop tells all police stations to establish anti-rowdy squads

Times News Network

Bengaluru: State police chief has issued a circular telling the police force to set up dedicated anti-rowdy squads immediately to prevent crime.

It follows chief minister DK Shivakumar's June 4 instructions to check anti-social activities and strengthen preventive measures.

According to a circular issued by the DG&IGP's office, police stations should maintain confidential rowdy registers for effective surveillance and preventive action.

"Dedicated rowdy squads have to be formed in every police station. The squads have to be tasked with verifying criminal cases against individuals, opening new rowdy sheets wherever necessary, and maintaining updated records of rowdy-sheeters and anti-social elements," it said.

Officers have also been directed to conduct regular surveillance of rowdies, monitor their activities and associations, identify emerging gangs and criminal groups, and gather actionable intelligence.

The squads have to initiate preventive measures under laws such as Goonda Act, KCOCA, and externment proceedings. They should also ensure the execution of warrants, bonds, and other legal proceedings against habitual offenders and conduct special drives.

To strengthen accountability, circle inspectors and station house officers will review the functioning of rowdy squads every fortnight. Unit heads have been instructed to periodically review and update all rowdy sheets.

Tree topples, wall collapses on Chamarajpet bus shelter

Times News Network

Pics: TOI

Two persons sustained wounds during the incident Sunday

Bengaluru: A massive tree toppled near Ramakrishna Mutt in Chamarajpet Sunday evening, bringing down an adjacent compound wall and crushing a bus shelter.

The incident occurred around 5pm within Bengaluru Central City Corporation limits. According to fire and emergency services personnel, the huge tree fell first, causing a nearly 20-metre-long wall belonging to the State Bank of India premises to collapse. The tree and wall fell onto the nearby bus shelter, triggering panic among commuters.

While four two-wheelers were damaged, police sources confirmed that there were no human casualties. According to locals, two persons sustained minor injuries. Fire brigade officials said the gradual fall of the tree allowed people sheltering at the bus stop to move away in time, preventing a major tragedy. The incident has again raised concerns over the safety of ageing compound walls in the city. This is the third such wall collapse reported in Bengaluru in the past three months. Earlier incidents at Bowring Hospital and Vijayanagar Club had together claimed eight lives.

RAIN LIKELY OVER NEXT THREE DAYS

India Meteorological Department has forecast light to moderate rain and thundershowers across the city until Wednesday, with wind speeds of 30-50kmph. On Sunday, parts of the city, including JP Nagar & Banashankari, received light showers. Traffic police have advised motorists to exercise caution on waterlogged roads and follow official advisories for real-time traffic updates.

Grandpa sought neighbours' help to open door

▶ Continued from page 1

While the couple and their children slept in one room, Venkat Naidu's parents slept in another.

Around 10.30 pm, Tatarao, Venkat Naidu's father, heard commotion and his son shouting. Unable to open the door, he sought help from neighbours.

Venkat Naidu, Soujanya and Pragathi were found with severe stab injuries. Pragathi died on the spot, while Venkat Naidu succumbed to his injuries at a hospital. Soujanya sustained serious injuries to her head and neck.

In his complaint, Tatarao alleged that his grandson, Sai Venkat Manideep, suddenly became enraged, picked up a knife from the house, stabbed Pragathi, attacked his parents and then slit his own neck.

Superintendent of police Dr Ram L Arasiddi said preliminary information suggested the crime had been committed by a family member.

He said the injured told investigators that while the four family members were asleep, Sai Venkat Manideep switched off the lights and attacked them with a knife. Complainant Tatarao has expressed suspicion against his grandson.

ALMANAC (8.6.2026)

Vrishabha Masa 24 Shri Parabhava Nama Samvatsara – Uttarayana – Greeshma Ritu - Tithi: Adhika Jyeshtha Krishna Ashtami h. 27-24 Nakshatra: Satabhisaj h. 9-10 Yoga: Viskumbha h. 9-28. 22 Zulhijja
Rahu Kalam 7.30am — 9am
— KL Vidya Shankara Somayaji

Activists flag crowding, conflict risks at upcoming shelter for 500 canines

Sanjay.Murty@timesofindia.com

WORK IN PROGRESS: The facility at Medi Agrahara in north Bengaluru is planned to have 24 enclosures, each housing 20-25 dogs

Bengaluru: Activists have raised concerns over the design and management plan of a stray dog shelter being constructed to house around 500 animals in north Bengaluru, warning that overcrowding, inadequate infrastructure and the absence of stakeholder oversight could compromise animal welfare.

The concerns were raised during a visit to the under-construction shelter at Medi Agrahara recently. Volunteers and animal rights groups questioned whether the facility could safely accommodate such a large number of dogs, citing issues related to ventilation, drainage, enclosure design and the lack of consultation with animal welfare stakeholders.

The shelter, being developed by the Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC), consists of concrete outer walls and three longitudinal sections that remain open to the air. Wastewater generated from cleaning kennels will be channelled through drains running along these sections. As underground sewerage lines have not yet been laid, officials said the wastewater would temporarily be diverted to sewage pits.

The facility is planned to have 24 enclosures separated by chain-link fencing, with each enclosure expected to house 20-25 dogs. Portions of the enclosures will be covered by sheet roofs, allowing animals access to both shaded and open areas.

However, activists argued that the design leaves much of the space exposed to rain. They also expressed concern over the plans to house large packs of unfamiliar dogs together, warning that such arrangements could lead to territorial fights, injuries and stress.

"In our shelter, food is placed in designated circles at least three feet apart, and there is enough room for dogs to move away if conflicts arise," said Girish Anjenappa of Animal Rights Fund, which operates a shelter housing more than 900 dogs at Bidadi. "Dogs are highly territorial. Their behaviour and compatibility must be assessed before housing them together. The authorities have not adequately considered these aspects," he said.

Sujaya Jagadish of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) alleged that civic authorities had failed to consult animal rights volunteers or SPCA representatives while planning the facility.

She pointed out that the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023 require a monitoring committee.

Animal welfare activist Lina S also flagged inconsistencies in the standard operating procedures for shelters laid down by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI).

"Layouts for shelters with a capacity of 100 dogs provide for a 200 sqft exercise yard, but similar provisions are absent in the designs for 500 and 1,000-dog shelters," she said, adding that having only two narrow entry or exit points can be lethal in case of fire accidents.

BNCC chief veterinary officer, Dr HK Gangadharaiah, said the shelter had been designed in accordance with guidelines prescribed by the AWBI.

"We are open to suggestions and feedback, provided they are submitted through the proper channel," he said, adding that officials were working to develop shelters in a scientific and humane manner despite multiple responsibilities. On Friday, the shelter was showcased to a team of officials from Davanagere as a model facility for future dog shelter projects.

PRAGG ON NORWAY CHESS TITLE:

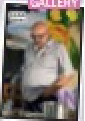
'Right at the top'

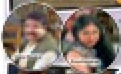
Carlsen on Pragg's win

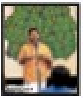
How much prize money did Pragg win?

Mango mania: Mangoes, stories and summer delights

GALLERY







Clark Gable's 1935 custom car eyes $8M at auction

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Cong faces heat over lack of Muslim faces in cabinet

They Want Preference For Backing Party

J Abbas Mulla | TNN

TOI

LOUD & CLEAR: A file photo of Muslim leaders protesting in Hubballi seeking ministerial berths for Muslim leaders

Hubballi: A demand for at least five Muslim ministers in the Karnataka cabinet has emerged as a fresh political challenge for Congress, with protests intensifying across the state and putting the party high command under visible pressure.

Community leaders argue Muslims voted overwhelmingly for the Congress in the last assembly elections, claiming nearly 87% of the community supported the party. They now insist this level of backing must be reflected in representation at the highest level of govt, particularly in the allocation of cabinet berths.

This is not the first time the issue has surfaced.

After the Davangere bypoll, ties between sections of the Muslim community and the Congress leadership have remained strained.

During the bypoll, community members urged the party to field a Muslim candidate, presenting it as a question of recognition and political inclusion. However, the high command chose to allocate the ticket to a member of late Shamanur Shivashankarappa's family, triggering resentment and it became a reference point for later protests.

Since then, the community has repeatedly attempted to influence party decisions, often linking their demands to safeguarding the interests and standing of Muslim MLAs within the Congress. On several occasions, when Congress initiated action against Muslim leaders for alleged anti-party activities, community groups responded with protests and press conferences, framing disciplinary moves as unfair targeting and warning the leadership against sidelining Muslim voices.

The latest round of protests began Friday, with demonstrators demanding five ministerial berths in the new cabinet, including one for BZ Zameer Ahmed. The agitation signals the community is no longer content with assurances and is seeking concrete representation.

For Congress, already managing competing expectations among multiple caste and regional blocs, the renewed push adds urgency and complexity to cabinet formation and power-sharing decisions.

Former minister AM Hindasgeri, also president of the century-old Hubballi Anjuman E Islam, said that during SM Krishna's tenure as CM, five-six Muslims used to get ministerial berths, and he was also a minister then. "If one goes by population, Muslims should get greater preference, but currently at least five MLAs should be given ministerial berths," he added.

Altaf Hallur, president of Hubballi-Dharwad Mahanagara Congress, said the sentiments and demands of the Muslim community will be brought to the notice of the party president and senior state leaders.

In Dakshina Kannada, responding to reports of discontent over portfolio allocations and the absence of a cabinet berth for Khan, minister UT Khader said Congress values all its leaders and that decisions on cabinet expansion rest with the party high command.

'Not just my dad's nominee, I'm my community's voice'

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Bengaluru: From being a political recluse in 2016 to becoming a cabinet minister and torchbearer of his father, former chief minister Siddaramaiah's legacy, Yathindra Siddaramaiah, 45, has come a long way in a short time.

While Yathindra believes it is hard to walk out of his father's shadow, he says he can and will carve out a political image of his own. Excerpts from his interview with **TOI**:

Do you intend to contest assembly elections in 2028?
Yes. In 2023 the high command asked me to vacate the Varuna seat for my father so that he could concentrate on other seats. In 2028, I intend to contest from Varuna.

As a first-time minister...
I must hit the ground running as only one and a half years are left, with the last six months lost in preparation for the 2028 elections. I need to fast-track projects and get them completed on time in the urban development department.

But as only one-time MLA and a one-time MLC, people questioned your induction...
Every cabinet has a mix of the old and new faces. In my case, the high command decided to induct me just before my father stepped down. The rest of the new faces will arrive with cabinet expansion.

So are you the nominee of your dad or representative of the Kuruba community?
Both. With him stepping down, the high command believed that giving his son the ministerial berth would help pacify the community which was dismayed with Siddaramaiah being asked to vacate his post. Also, the community needs higher representation.

But emerging out of your father's shadow will be a challenge...
He is a once in a generation leader. I will not even attempt to step into his shoes. But if I remain true to my ideology and remain committed in my approach then I shall be able to carve out my own identity. I intend to have a long career in politics.

Will you provide continuity to the AHINDA leadership?
The movement is bigger than any leader. While my father will continue to be the face of the movement, newer faces, not just me, with commitment in the ideology will join.

You are also the house leader in the council...
It is in fact a bigger challenge than that of handling a department. But as house leader you need to tackle the opposition and respond to peoples' representatives. But with experience that too can be managed.

You are the UDD minister under whom Muda features, now MDA. Will the alleged controversy involving your parents put you in conflict of position...
No, I do not believe so. Although there has been an appeal filed in the higher courts, the peoples' representatives court has already accepted the B report filed by the investigating agencies. So, my parents have been given a clean chit.

Govt transfers six IAS, three IPS officers

Times News Network

Bengaluru: The state govt Sunday reshuffled senior IAS officers, transferring and posting six officers to key positions across various departments. Among the prominent postings, Anjum Parwez, who was awaiting posting after serving as additional chief secretary to former CM Siddaramaiah, has been appointed as additional chief secretary to the forest, ecology and environment department.

Munish Moudgil, special commissioner (administration, revenue and IT) of the Greater Bengaluru Authority, has been given concurrent charge as principal secretary to the chief minister (programme and project implementation), a newly created post.

Deepa Cholan has been transferred and posted as secretary to the transport department, while Cauvery BS, who was awaiting posting, has been appointed secretary to the urban development department.

Venkatesh MV has been transferred and posted as registrar of cooperative societies. Bharathi M has been appointed commissioner for transport and road safety.

Sr IPS officers transferred
The state govt transferred three IPS officers and assigned them key responsibilities in the law enforcement and intelligence wings. Pronab Mohanty, who was serving as DGP, internal security division, has been transferred and posted as DGP, CID, special units and economic offences.

Mohanty has also been entrusted with the concurrent charge of the post of DGP (cyber crimes), CID.

In another key posting, Chandragupta, who was serving as inspector general of police (IGP), security (intelligence), Bengaluru, has been posted as IGP, intelligence. Labhu Ram, who was serving as IGP, intelligence, has been transferred and is awaiting posting.

Those willing to serve can contact DHOs

▶ Continued from page 1

Speaking during his first visit to Dakshina Kannada after assuming office as minister, Khader said MBBS graduates willing to serve on contract can approach the respective District Health Officer, following which appointment proposals will be forwarded to the DC and appointment orders issued within a week.

"If any DHO fails to act on such applications, strict action, including suspension, will be taken," he said.

Addressing concerns over partnerships between govt hospitals and private medical colleges, he said such collaborations would only strengthen healthcare services. Khader said improving the functioning of govt hospitals would be one of his key priorities.

On visiting a govt hospital in the night after taking charge as health minister, Khader said, "When we visit hospitals, especially during late hours, we get a real picture. It is not the minister alone who should pay surprise visits, even senior health officials must conduct regular inspections and ensure hospitals serve the people effectively," he said.

TOI

Chief minister DK Shivakumar and his brother DK Suresh met their mother Gowramma in Kanakapura on Sunday

CM to review LPG price hike today

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Chief minister DK Shivakumar Sunday said he has sought a detailed report on the recent hike in LPG, industrial gas and diesel prices and would respond to the increase in domestic LPG cylinder prices on Monday after reviewing the report.

Speaking before commencing his gratitude tour to his home constituency, Shivakumar said he was more concerned about the hike in industrial gas and diesel prices and would comment on the issue in detail after examining the report.

DCM slams Centre
Deputy chief minister G Parameshwara criticised the Centre for increasing LPG cylinder prices again, alleging the move has imposed an additional burden on common people. He alleged the Centre was attempting to justify the hike by citing the prevailing war situation.

Rural development and panchayat raj (RDPR) minister Eshwar Khandre also slammed the Centre over the Rs 29 increase in the price of a 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder. Questioning whether this was the "achhe din" promised by the BJP-led govt, Khandre said it was the second hike in domestic LPG prices within three months, raising the cumulative burden on consumers by nearly Rs 90.

He alleged that repeated price increases had severely impacted poor and middle-class families and termed them a result of the Centre's "misgovernance".

Don't sell your land, be wary of SIR: CM

▶ Continued from page 1

He made a soft pitch for the 2028 elections, asking people: "Do you want a two-year CM or one with a full term?" The CM urged locals to "be friendly with each other, and not quarrel. This should be a zero-police-case taluk in Karnataka. Kanakapura has a court; there is no need to go to Ramanagara (district headquarters) and Bengaluru."

He said real power rests with voters, who ensured the state received five guarantees as promised in the 2023 election manifesto of Congress. He sought their support for Congress's victory in 2028 too. During his speeches, the CM warned people of the likely consequences of Election Commission's voter-roll revision exercise, or SIR. "If you want your Gruha Lakshmi, Gruha Jyothi and Anna Bhagya, ensure your votes are here," he told supporters.

Reminding them of appreciation in land value, he urged locals to retain land and continue with agriculture and related activities. "You have milk centres unparalleled in the state and have contributed largely to Bamul. Do not sell your land; people of Bengaluru will come here. Your agricultural activities will earn you as much as jobs in the city," he said.

He urged youths to not form workers' unions. Instead, he asked them to upskill and take up jobs in Harohalli, an industrial township near Kanakapura.

Reminding locals that BS Yediyurappa, as CM, shifted a govt hospital from their region to Chikkaballapur, he said foundation stone will be laid for the hospital in Kanakapura within one month. "This first-ever hospital in taluk headquarters will be operational within two years." He appointed a KAS officer to collect grievances from his constituents and pass them on for direct redressal.

Pilgrim boom: Tirupati guesthouse handed to tourism dept

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Bengaluru: Karnataka govt has transferred its prominent Tirupati guesthouse from the muzrai department to the tourism department as part of efforts to professionalise operations and improve services for the growing number of pilgrims visiting the Andhra Pradesh temple town.

Tourism secretary Trilok Chandra told TOI that Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) will soon invite separate tenders for lodging and kitchen operations at the facility. "KSTDC will soon invite separate tenders for lodging and kitchen operations at the facility, shifting towards specialised management," he said.

CHOULTRIES EARNING HIGHEST REVENUE

Temple town	No. of rooms	Income from 2023-2026
Karnataka State Charity, Tirumala	338	₹36.8 crore
Kukke Sri Subrahmanya Temple	419	₹18.5 crore
Sri Mookambika Temple, Kolluru	354	₹7.5 crore
Sri Renuka Yallamma Temple, Savadatti	351	₹3.2 crore
Sri Srikanteshwara Temple, Nanjangudu	60	₹72.3 lakh

Source: Endowment Dept

Officials said the move comes amid a steady rise in pilgrim travel from Karnataka to Tirupati, driven partly by the state's free bus travel scheme for women. Officials expect the scheme to continue boosting visitor numbers through Karnataka's public transport network.

While tourism officials hope the transfer will improve hospitality standards, organised Tirupati tourism packages have taken a hit after Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) stopped preferential darshan access earlier extended to package tourists. "The tourist circuit numbers have come down after VIP darshan access was stopped. We are planning to write to TTD on the issue," Chandra said.

The transfer is also part of a wider push to use tourism expertise in managing temple accommodation facilities, while the muzrai department focuses on developing smaller pilgrimage centres across Karnataka to spread tourist traffic and support local economies. Muzrai department data showed a sharp expansion in temple accommodation facilities in recent years. The number of rooms increased from 511 across three temple institutions in 2023-24 to 1,270 across 12 temple institutions in 2024-25, with major additions at Kollur Mookambika Temple and Renuka Yallamma Temple. The expansion has also boosted revenues. Accommodation earnings rose from Rs 14.1 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 24.5 crore in 2024-25 and further to Rs 31.18 crore in 2025-26, marking a growth of over 120% in two years.

Rajender Kumar Kataria, additional chief secretary, dept of revenue (muzrai), said, "The increase has been driven by the introduction of online room booking systems, digital payment options, improved transparency and stronger online visibility."

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Vishwajeet is celebrating his first birthday in his new heavenly abode. His warmth, wisdom, kindness, and unwavering love continue to inspire and guide us every day. The values he instilled, the memories he created, and the lives he touched shall remain cherished forever. His voice is silent, but he is there in every inch of our life.

With Love
Balaka Banerjee,
Devojyoti Banerjee

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SHARING MEMORIES

In loving memory of our beloved Dad
Sri. V. B. S. KRISHNAN
24 May 1930 - 08 June 2020

Six years ago, you left a void that only you could fill, but you also left a lifetime of beautiful memories that time can never erase.

Always a part of our lives and hearts, you are forever loved and dearly missed.

Fondly remembered by Sons & Family

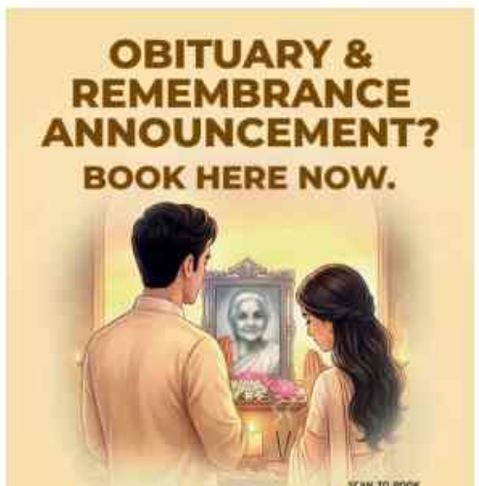
ANISHA

A LOVING BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Not a day passes without your smile, your laughter, and your beautiful spirit finding their way back to us.

Forever Loved. Forever Remembered.

- All Who Love and Cherish Her Memory.



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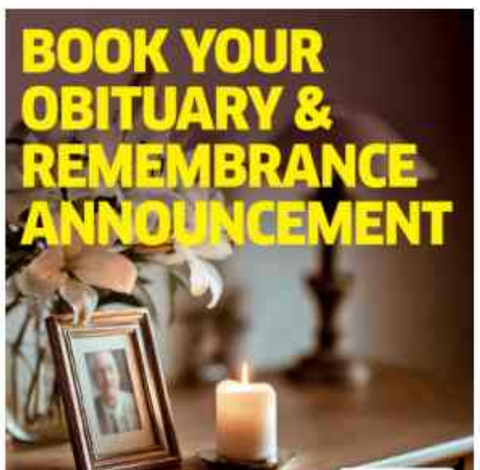

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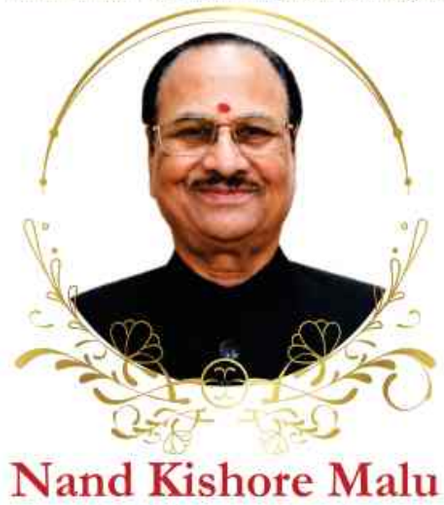
Shraddhanjali
In loving memory of our beloved who guided and inspired us.



Nand Kishore Malu
08-02-1945 to 07-06-2026
MANAGING DIRECTOR, MALU GROUP OF COMPANIES
A VISIONARY, A FAMILY MAN, AN INDUSTRIALIST, A PHILANTHROPIST, A CHARISMATIC LEADER

An *Industry Stalwart*, a man who fought against all odds to create a successful organisation. A *Charismatic Leader* who carried people throughout his life and provided livelihood for thousands. A *Philanthropist* who championed for the underprivileged. A *Visionary* who continued to inspire everyone he met, until his last breath. And most of all an *Idealistic*, loving and dedicated family man.

A TITAN AMONG MEN

In reverence & remembrance
Smt. Savitri Devi Malu - Wife
Naval Kishore, Kamal Kishore & Vimal - Sons
Aditya Vikram, Yashhvarrdhan, Rishab, Manan, Dhruv & Siddarth - Grandsons
Aayaansh Vikram & Ekansh - Great Grandsons

Premchand, Brijmohan, Ramesh, Dinesh, Suresh, Laxmiraman, Santosh, Madhusudan, Vikram & Malu Family

MALU GROUP SINCE 1968
Bengaluru - Kalaburagi - Belagavi

'To protect our oceans, we must first understand them'

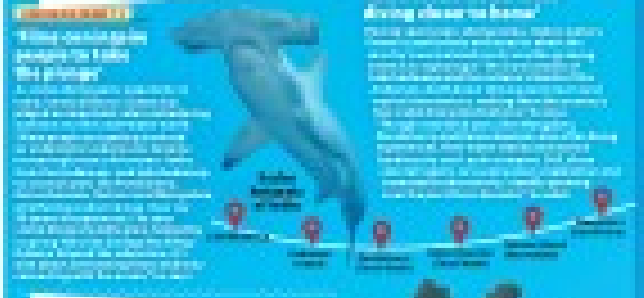
The ocean is talking. Are we listening?

3MN

70%

30%

8MN



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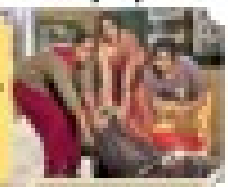
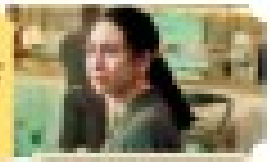
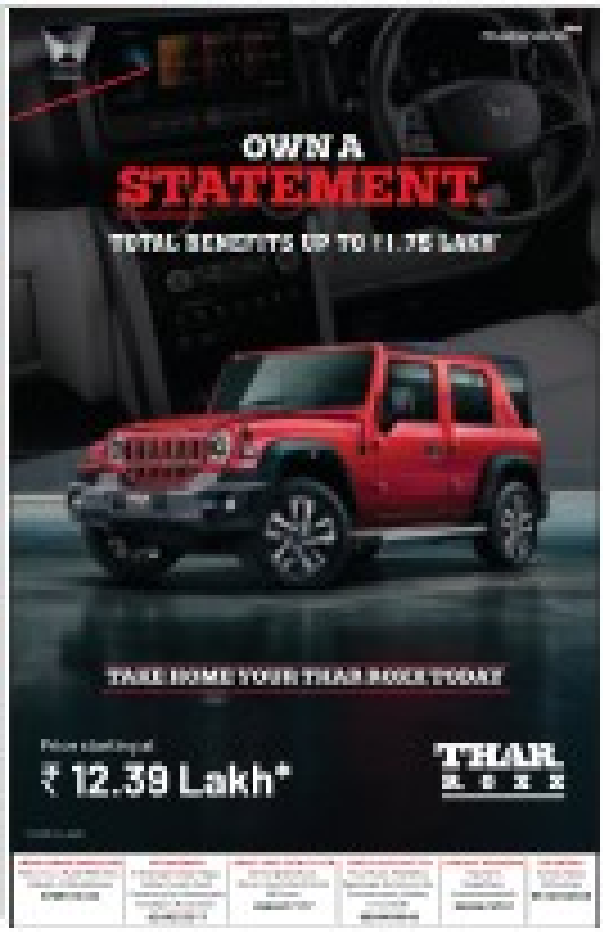
OTT REVIEWS

A satire on society's discomfort with female autonomy & power



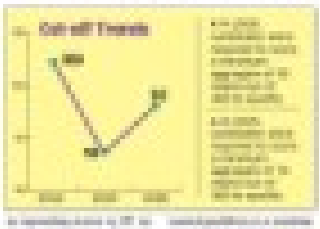
Karisma Kapoor anchors this crime thriller with conviction

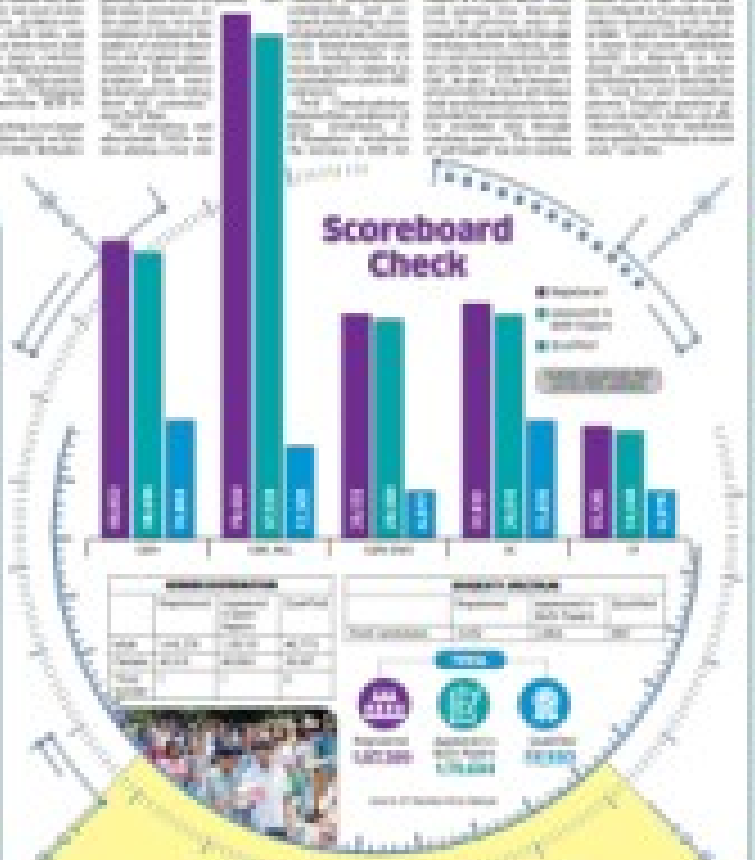




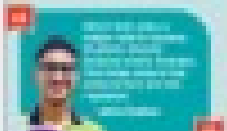
Seat hike, smarter preparation push success rate above 31%

With coaching centres and online learning platforms expanding into smaller towns, access to quality resources is no longer limited to metro cities





Early start, steady focus help reach the goal



Olympiad star adds another feather to cap

Ace formula: Turning challenges into motivation

Family moved cities to support daughter who topped the girls' list

TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2026

TVK GOVT IN TAMIL NADU MAY NOT LAST EVEN THREE MONTHS, CLAIMS DMK CHIEF MK STALIN

GOVT WILL REALISE 'THE POLITICAL PRICE' OF REPEATED FUEL AND LPG PRICE HIKES: PAWAR

Physics tops complaints on CBSE Class XII grading

Thousands Of Students, And Teachers, Claim Missing Marks

Swati Shinde Gole | TNN

Mathematics generated the second-largest volume of complaints, with students alleging intermediate steps weren't adequately marked

Pune: Physics tops the list of grading complaints from the thousands of CBSE Class XII students who have accessed photocopies of their answer sheets for re-evaluation, with aggrieved examinees alleging missing marks, uncredited step-marking, unmarked pages and, in at least one case, an answer sheet that did not belong to the student whose roll number it was filed under.

Gurgaon student Ansh Shrivastava said he got 18 in physics but above 80 in every other subject. "I found complete answers marked zero," he said.

Pune-based school principal Madhavi Shetty said one of her students discovered that the answer sheet uploaded under his roll number was not his. The student said the handwriting, prose and answer presentation were entirely different. "When his complaint received attention online, CBSE acknowledged the error and provided what it described as the correct answer sheet," Shetty said.

Mumbai student Diana D'Souza said physics evaluation had been "extremely strict", pointing out that marks weren't given even when formulae and steps were correct.

Avni Sharma, a Delhi student, found that questions she attempted across the paper didn't fetch her any marks although she claimed the answers weren't entirely incorrect. Vanshika Krishna from Bengaluru said her numerical answers were correct but the evaluator did not grade her through the established practice of step marking.

CBSE data bears out the sheer volume of complaints, showing declining grade thresholds. The A1 cut-off in physics dropped to 79 marks this year from 82 in 2025 and 84 in 2024. Chemistry's A1 threshold dropped to 87 from 89 last year and 92 in 2024. Mathematics slipped to 85 from 86 in 2025 and 88 in 2024. At 91, biology is the only science subject whose grade parameter remains unchanged from last year.

CBSE counsellor Vishal Mehta said the alleged discrepancies were affecting students racing to complete admission formalities for undergraduate courses.

Mathematics generated the second-largest volume of complaints, with students alleging intermediate steps weren't adequately marked. Most complaints about chemistry pertain to questions against which students claim answers matching the marking scheme earned fewer marks than expected or none.

Biology drew fewer grievances, although some students alleged that detailed explanations, labelling and diagrams weren't fairly marked.

Vaidehi Joshi, principal of another Pune school, said the recurring theme across subjects was that evaluation had been unusually strict this year. "Students say the application-oriented nature of the papers was expected, but many believe the evaluation did not sufficiently reward method, reasoning or partially correct responses," she said. "Students have also questioned why they must pay verification and re-evaluation fees to correct what they believe are evaluation errors," Joshi added.

CBSE has maintained that all genuine concerns will be examined through the prescribed verification and re-evaluation process.

Dipke distances from Gen-Z stir in B'desh, Nepal

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Sunday distanced his movement from recent violent Gen-Z uprisings in Bangladesh and Nepal, saying his campaign will remain peaceful even as it scales up into a nationwide agitation over the NEET leak with demands for Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation.

"We held a peaceful stir at Delhi's Jantar Mantar (last week), and will be holding similar peaceful protests in days to come," said Dipke. Meanwhile, cops heightened security at his home in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

The CJP founder urged young people and their families to speak up on issues affecting them, saying fear should not hold them back. "Learn to raise your voice. Don't be afraid. I am ready to go to jail for you," he said. Dipke asserted that the agitation will continue until Pradhan resigns over the NEET leak. TNN

On last day to seek re-evaluation, portal glitches lock students out

Swati Shinde Gole | TNN

Applicants reported login failures, 'Roll Number Not Found' errors, payment issues, captcha failures and pages that refused to load

Pune: Students across India were locked out of CBSE's Class XII re-evaluation portal on Sunday as the clock ticked on the midnight deadline for applications. Applicants reported login failures, "Roll Number Not Found" errors, payment issues, captcha failures and pages that refused to load.

Social media was flooded with complaints about the board's helpline, email support and website being unresponsive all day. "I was unable to apply for revaluation as the portal spouted a message saying my roll number wasn't found each time I tried to log in with my valid roll number. Due to this technical issue, I cannot submit my request before the deadline," a student wrote on X, tagging CBSE.

Pratik Sajjan from Delhi said the portal shut him out despite all details being entered correctly. The problem was compounded by the absence of support from official channels. Students alleged that calls to CBSE's helpline either went unanswered or the line remained perpetually busy, while emails drew no response for three to four days.

"How are students supposed to apply before the deadline?" Tanishka Rathi from Bhopal said. Vishal More from Maharashtra's Solapur said, "I have made an email request to the board to extend the deadline because students are losing their only chance (to get papers re-evaluated) due to technical problems."

The current re-evaluation cycle has already been extended once after technical disruptions and security concerns affected the process. Students said the additional time was of little help when the portal itself remained inaccessible during the final crucial hours.

"We request the board that grace marks be given at least in physics because even genuine answers have not been appropriately marked," said Akanksha Sharma, a student from Bengaluru. Candidates said they feared they would not get into courses of their choice or miss deadlines for competitive exams for no fault of theirs.

By Sunday evening, demands for another extension of the deadline were growing louder across social media, with students urging CBSE either to reopen the portal for a few more days or introduce an alternative submission mechanism.

CBSE shifts data to govt-controlled servers

Manash.Gohain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: CBSE has migrated all answer-sheet records and related examination data from infrastructure managed by Hyderabad-based Coempt Eduteck Pvt Ltd to govt-controlled Amazon Web Services (AWS) servers to strengthen data security and restore confidence in its digital evaluation ecosystem.

The move comes amid the ongoing probe into board's controversial On-Screen Marking (OSM) rollout and the board's initiating an inquiry into procurement of OSM services and a broader review of its digital examination architecture following complaints over scanned answer sheets, portal glitches and alleged cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

According to CBSE sources, the transfer of data assumes significance because Coempt Eduteck, the company that implemented OSM platform for CBSE's Class XII examinations this year, is also facing scrutiny over the manner in which it secured the contract. Independent cybersecu-

FROM COEMPT TO AWS

rity researchers had separately raised concerns about alleged vulnerabilities in systems linked to digital evaluation process, prompting demands for stronger safeguards around student records.

A senior education ministry official said the migration was intended to ensure that all sensitive examination data remains under direct govt control while ongoing reviews are completed.

"All answer-sheet records and associated digital assets have been shifted to govt-managed AWS infrastructure. The objective is to strengthen security, ensure greater oversight and eliminate any concerns regarding custody of examination-related data," the official told TOI.

Move coincides with the final day to apply for CBSE's Class XII re-evaluation and verification process. The application window closes at midnight on June 7 after witnessing heavy student participation. Board data show that by June 4, portal had processed 70,433 applications, including 63,119 requests for re-evaluation and 7,314 for verification of marks.

IITs add 600+ seats, total intake goes up to 18,826

Hemali.Chhapia
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The Indian Institutes of Technology have increased their seat intake by over 600 this year, taking the total number to 18,826 as compared to 18,160 seats last year. The largest increase comes from IIT Jodhpur, which has added 140 seats, followed by IIT Mandi with an addition of 120 seats.

"The IITs have quietly redrawn parts of its academic map this year, introducing 18 new programmes that reflect how engineering education is changing. Many of the programmes sit at the intersection of traditional disciplines and emerging technologies," said Amit Ahuja, Allen's career counsellor.

IIT Kanpur has launched a programme in Intelligent Systems, IIT Mandi has introduced Quantum Science and Engineering, while IIT Indore has combined Biomedical Engineering with Data Science. Data analytics now finds its way into chemical and agricultural engineering at IIT Mandi, signalling a growing recognition that future engineers will need to work as comfortably with algorithms and data as they do with machines and materials. IIT Dharwad has introduced four-year science majors in mathematics and physics," said Ahuja, Allen's career counsellor.

TOI

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Advanced computer labs enable students to work with digital tools, programming platforms, data systems, and creative technologies, preparing them for technology-led careers

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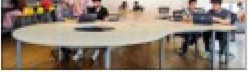

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BPharm curriculum gets AI update as PCI ropes in industry biggies to revise it

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Congratulations!

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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HACK OF THE DAY **LOCK INCOGNITO TABS WHEN YOU LEAVE CHROME**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Keeps private browsing tabs from staying openly visible when someone else picks up your phone

WHAT TO DO: Turn on Chrome's option to lock Incognito tabs when you leave the browser

STEPS:

1. **Open** Chrome on your phone
2. **Go to** Settings
3. **Tap** Privacy and security
4. **Turn on** Lock Incognito tabs when you leave Chrome
5. **Test** by opening an Incognito tab, leaving Chrome, and returning to it

CAREFUL: Incognito does not make you invisible online, but only protects tabs from casual viewing

SCAN FOR MORE

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

Panchkula hit-&-run victim driven around till he dies, body dumped

A father of two was run over by a pickup truck in Panchkula on Sunday, but instead of taking him to hospital, the occupants of the vehicle carried him into the pickup, drove around until he died, and then dumped the body. The accused haven't been traced yet. The victim, 48-year-old Charanjit Singh, worked as a security guard. According to family members and witnesses, Singh was crossing the road when the pickup struck him around 1pm. He was seriously injured but alive when passersby rushed to help. The two men in the vehicle assured the locals that they would take Singh to hospital and carried him into the pickup.

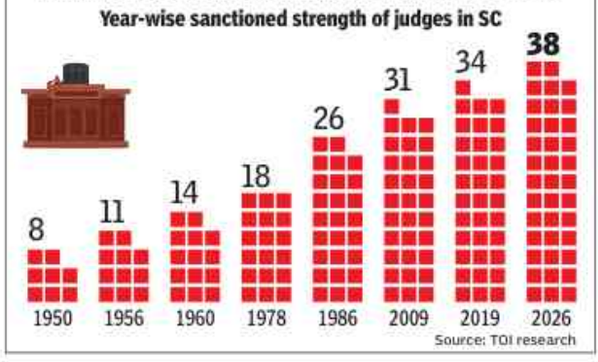
When his family learned of the accident, they began searching for him, but could not locate him. A couple of hours later, Singh's body was found dumped near a transformer. TNN

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

5x jump in SC judges since 1950. But is it enough?

From 8 in 1950 to 38 today, the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges has grown nearly fivefold. Yet, against a backdrop of population growth (from 35 crore to 145 crore in 75 years) and a mountain of pending cases (over 90,000 in March 2026), this may not be enough

Year-wise sanctioned strength of judges in SC



Source: TOI research

A Question Of Civic Sense

CITY CITY BANG BANG

SANTOSH DESAI

For the last many months, there has been a lot of conversation about how Indians lack civic sense. There is certainly no paucity of evidence, whether in instances of alleged misbehaviour abroad or in everyday life in India, which abounds with examples of this lack. Traffic rules are flouted frequently, littering seems to be second nature, queues are not sacrosanct, and public urination is an easy reflex. On social media, this is bemoaned with the diagnosis that unless 'we' change as a people, nothing can be done about it.

The problem with this argument is that it gets the causal arrow backwards. Civic sense is not an inherent trait that people are either born with or without. We behave well when our context gives us the right signals. When the boundaries between what is acceptable and what is not are clearly drawn, and when we suffer consequences when we step out of line. Pretty much how children learn what is good behaviour and what attracts punishment.

Civic order is the outcome of design, enforcement, predictability and fairness. Every society runs this training programme. In India, however, the context gives mixed signals, and the training data often points in the opposite direction. Rule-breaking is often rewarded while rule-following feels foolish. The person who jumps the queue gets served first. The driver who forces his way into traffic saves time. Over time, a lesson is absorbed: rules are negotiable and something to be worked around.

Yet, in another sense, we are great sticklers for rules— social ones. Try giving a cheap gift to a close relative. Or miss an important family function. The full wrath of the great Indian family will descend on you. Your infraction will be noted in the invisible social ledger all families keep, and you will never hear the end of it. The same person who tosses a plastic packet on the road will follow these rules unfailingly.

Our problem is not that we don't follow rules but that we follow only certain kinds of rules. In our heads, there is a world of difference between two concepts which otherwise seem related— the social and the civic.

The social is rooted in relationships. The civic involves strangers. We are born into the social— family, caste, kinship network and religious community. We know the elaborate rules, the unspoken expectations and the consequences of stepping out of line. The civic is an implicit contract between strangers. It works in societies that have managed to make responsibility towards people we don't know feel real. India hasn't managed it, perhaps because the communities we are born into are always more powerful than the ones we choose.

Civic order is the outcome of design, enforcement, predictability and fairness Every society runs this training programme. In India, however rule-breaking is often rewarded while rule-following feels foolish. The person who jumps the queue gets served first. Over time, a lesson is absorbed: rules are negotiable, something to be worked around

This explains why a group of people can perform folk dances at any public place anywhere in the world without embarrassment. The only people who matter, who can judge them, are those dancing with them. Strangers don't exist as an audience worth considering. It also explains the second-hand embarrassment some people feel when they see this. In India, they are not related to us, and we feel no responsibility. But internationally, they represent 'us', and we feel shamed as a collective.

At a fundamental level, we engage with rules through one mental model— that of exemptions. One example is particularly revealing. At all new highways, before the toll booth, you will find a giant hoarding listing the categories of people exempt from paying (25 categories). At many airports, there is a similar list of those exempt from being frisked (34 categories). There are never any equivalent advertisements for what happens if we break the rules— only for who gets to break them with official sanction.

This is an extraordinary insight into the culture. It is one thing to have exemptions. It is another to be primarily concerned with who gets to break rules. What is a site of civic universality— everyone uses the same road and pays the same amount— becomes a place for marking hierarchy. The social wins over the civic. I am too important to be subject to any universal rule, and the system not only acknowledges it but advertises it.

The logic of exemptions finds its most democratic expression in public space. Here, everyone is exempt, for the rules are implicit and there is no social consequence to any action. Littering, jumping a queue, playing loud music in a serene hill station— the only people troubled are strangers who don't count. This is the commons of exemption, where unaccountability thrives.

The cultural issue with civic sense is real. But it is a consequence of how the state has designed its reward and punishment system. Instead of being an instrument of change, the govt becomes a legitimiser of the social over the civic. The minister who can delay a flight. The official who places his designation on a private vehicle. The policeman is riding without a helmet. The exemption list is proudly displayed at the toll plaza. Each communicates the same lesson— rules are a way of marking hierarchy, not a means of establishing order.

We are not the source of the problem. We are the vehicles of a problem sustained by a system that does not take its own rules seriously. Unless the rule makers change, we will continue to mistake a failure of design for a failure of people.

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Study: Industry spurs novel research but may hurt 'blue skies' science

Chethan.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Curiosity-driven investigations pursued without commercial objectives have led to some of science's most unexpected discoveries

Bengaluru: Industry's growing role in scientific publishing is helping researchers generate novel ideas across a range of disciplines, but it may also be steering science away from "blue skies research", curiosity-driven investigations pursued without immediate commercial objectives, which have historically produced some of science's most unexpected discoveries.

Published in PLOS One, the study by researchers from the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) and collaborators analysed 11.1 million scientific papers across 1,639 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields between 2000 and 2014. It is among the largest examinations of how industry involvement shapes scientific discovery.

The researchers, Anubha Shokhand and Nilam Kaushik from IIMB and Satyam Mukherjee from the School of Management and Entrepreneurship, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, studied what they termed "industry publishing contribution" — the share of papers in a field that include at least one industry-affiliated author.

While universities continue to produce most scientific publications, industry participation is substantial in fields such as AI, biotechnology and applied engineering. The study found that disciplines with stronger industry participation were more likely to produce research containing novel combinations of ideas.

According to the researchers, companies often bring practical problems, fresh perspectives and interdisciplinary challenges into scientific fields. These inputs can expand the pool of ideas available to scientists and encourage new combinations of knowledge that might not otherwise emerge.

However, the picture became more nuanced when the researchers examined the nature of novelty itself. They measured two different aspects of novelty. "Novelty breadth" refers to how widely a study integrates ideas from different domains, while "novelty distance" captures how intellectually far apart those ideas are.

As industry participation increased, novelty breadth rose by about 4.4%, suggesting broader integration of knowledge. At the same time, novelty distance declined by around 2.6%, indicating a reduction in research that bridges the most conceptually distant fields.

Boy kills sibling, assaults dad, sets house afire in UP

Lucknow: An 18-year-old youth beat his elder brother to death, assaulted his father and set their house on fire in UP's Gonda district during the wee hours of Sunday, police said, **reports Pathikrit Chakraborty**. Police arrested the accused and said the victim's body was found a short distance from his home.

ASI removes Vagdevi idol stealthily installed at Bhojshala sanctum

Rajesh Jauhri | TNN

Dhar: An ashtadhatu idol of Goddess Vagdevi was surreptitiously installed inside the sanctum sanctorum of the highly sensitive Bhojshala complex in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district on Saturday. It allegedly remained there for several hours before being removed by ASI officials later that evening.

Flowers, akshat and other puja materials were found near the idol, indicating that rituals had been performed. The development — which came weeks after the MP high court declared Bhojshala a temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati — raised serious questions about security arrangements at the protected monument. Officials had yet to ascertain who brought the idol, when it was installed, and how the act escaped notice for several hours.

At Bhojshala, cops guard the monument's outer periphery while ASI staff monitor the interior premises. ASI chief archaeologist Prashant Patankar refused to comment. In absence of concrete ASI guidelines on list of objects allowed inside Bhojshala complex, no police case was registered, Dhar Kotwali SHO Dipak Singh Chohan said.

Plan finalised to shift all meat and fish shops to outskirts of Varanasi in phased manner

Varanasi: Varanasi Municipal Corporation has finalised its plan to relocate meat and fish shops to the city's outskirts in phases, **reports Rajeev Dikshit**. Municipal commissioner Himanshu Nagpal informed the House of the civic body that five locations have been identified in the first phase of the project. The move is aimed at improving sanitation and streamlining the functioning of such markets while ensuring continued access to consumers, officials said. They said 350 to 400 meat and fish shops are currently operating within the city limits.

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O.P.No.246/2026
Subin Sunil Kumar : Petitioner
Vs
Tejaswini S.M, D/o Manja Naik, aged 20 years, Residing at 1-101, Pride Pristine, 3rd Cross Road, Ananth Nagar, Phase-2, Kammasandra, Electronic city, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560100 : Respondent
PAPER PUBLICATION/SUBSTITUTED SERVICE NOTICE
Please take notice that the above case stands posted to 27.06.2026 for the appearance of parties. If you fail to appear before the Honourable Court on the said date an exparte order will be passed against you.
Sd/-, K K Balaram, Advocate for the petitioner.

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Dombalada Shiva Prakasha, R/A No. 2A-607, Provident Tree Apartment, 6th Flr, 2nd Main rd, Syndicate Bank Layout, Herohalli, Vishwaneedm, B'lore- 91, have changed my name as SHIVA PRAKASHA D. Affidvait dtd 5.06.26, sworn bfr Ntry S Prasanna Kumar, Blr.

I, Arun C S/o.Chandra Naik born on 03.02.1988 residing at Flat No.G012, Naksha Atlantis Apartments, Ground Floor, 7th Cross, Neeladri Nagar, E-City P-1, Bangalore 560100, hereby state that my name in Old Passport N1730253 is Aruna Chandra Naik, my name is Arun C vide Affidavit No.IN-K A 7 2 4 7 4 2 7 7 3 0 1 3 6 5 Y, Dt:28.05.2026 before Notary on 05.06.2026

THE TIMES OF INDIA
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I Samartha s,residing at No.4,KG Lakkenahalli Blr-562162 declare my father's name is misspelled as siddapji v instead of siddappaji v in my 10th, 11th& 12th markscards. Both names belong to same person

I, ANJANA KOLANGATH CHORLI MANA VIJAYAN R/o Flat No. G-20, E Block, Sumadhura Srinivasam, Hoodi, Bengaluru - 560048 have changed my name to ANJANA KOLANGATH VIJAYAN vide affidavit dated 06-06-2026.

I, Roopa Shenoy Kasaragod, R/o Flat No 3C, A Block, Aratt Lake View County, Manipal County Road, Singasandra, Blr–560114 have changed my name to Roopa Shenoy for all purposes

I, YOGESH DARWHEKAR, S/o Late Bhaskar Trimbak Darwhekar, aged about 46 years, R/at No. 314, Orchid Homes, Kempapura Main Road, Yemlur, Bangalore 560037, have declared that my father's names BHASKAR TRIMBAK DARWHEKAR, BHASKAR TRIMBAKRAO DARWHEKAR and BHASKAR DARWHEKAR pertain to one and the same person, that is my deceased father only. Vide affidavit dated 16.08.2025 before Sheristedar, XIX A.C.J.M. Court, Bengaluru.

I, ANNAPURANA TONDU, W/O: SUBBARAMAIAH TONDU, R/O:FLAT-005, MYTHRI MAIDEN, NEAR N.D.DEVELOPERS, SOMASUNDRAPALYA, HSR LAYOUT EXTN-2, BLR-560102. Have changed my name as ANNAPURNA TONDU.

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Kerala bids farewell to actor Salim Kumar

Kochi: From comic performances that endeared him to generations to award-winning performances in a few films that showcased his creative range, Salim Kumar's remarkable journey came to an end on Sunday at his residence in Paravur, where Kerala bid an emotional farewell to the actor with full state honours.

Respecting his wishes, his family did not observe religious rituals during the funeral.

Thousands gathered at Paravur town hall for a final glimpse of the actor. Among those who paid homage were CM V D Satheesan, cultural affairs minister P C Vishnunadh and members of the film fraternity. Opposition leader Pinarayi Vijayan and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi were among those who conveyed their condolences. TNN

Man returns as sadhu after 46 yrs, asks mom for alms

Prem Punetha | TNN

Pithoragarh: A 61-year-old sadhu returned to his native village in Pithoragarh after 46 years and sought alms from his mother, telling her that he was Budhi Ballabh Upadhyaya, the son who had disappeared from home at the age of 15 and was never found despite years of search by the family. He now calls himself Buddh Nath and follows the Nath tradition of Sanatan Dharma.

Nandi Devi was at her home in Dauligad village in Pausha Postala gram panchayat near Berinag on June 4 when a sadhu with a long beard arrived at her door seeking bhiksha. The family later learnt that the man at the doorstep was the boy who had left the remote village near the Pithoragarh-Bageshwar border as a teenager, after which his father Tara Datt Upadhyaya searched several places for him but never received confirmed information about his whereabouts. Tara Datt died in 2005 without seeing his son return.

Buddh Nath told villagers that after leaving home he worked for some time in trucks and transport before gradually moving towards temples and a religious life. He later settled in Bikaner, Rajasthan, where he lives in a temple, and said he had returned not to settle in the village but to complete a ritual obligation connected with sanyas. "My spiritual guru died four years ago. Before his death, he asked me to return home and receive alms from my mother's hands. I have come only to fulfil that obligation," he said.

14-yr-old boy from Dhyan Chand's turf leads India to U-18 hockey title

Arindam Ghosh | TNN

Jhansi: Fourteen-year-old prodigy **Ketan Kushwaha** of Jhansi scripted a memorable chapter in UP's rich history of hockey by captaining the national Under-18 team to a commanding 4-1 victory over hosts Japan in the Asia Cup final on Friday.

The forward, who also found the net in the title clash, emerged as one of the tournament's standout performers, bringing immense pride to Jhansi — the city synonymous with hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand.

Ketan's rise from the narrow lanes of Bara Bazar to leading India on the continental stage has sparked celebrations across the city, with residents eagerly awaiting his return on Monday.

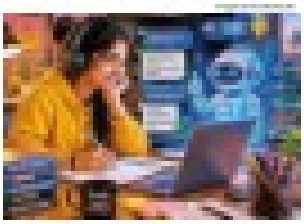
Living a modest life in the old city's Bara Bazar area, Ketan is the youngest among three brothers and a sister. His father, Dilip, is an electrician, while his mother is a homemaker.

According to his coach, Subodh Khandekar, a former international hockey player who has coached young talent for many years and recently retired from Indian Railways, Ketan was inducted into the Indian Hockey League at the age of 13. He was the youngest player to be inducted into the league.

Following this, he played for the Bengal team. Khandekar recalls that Ketan started attending the hockey camp at Laxmi Vyam Mandir about seven years ago, when he was just eight years old. "Initially, he was very lean, thin, and short. Though he had exceptional natural hockey skills from the beginning, he gradually gained height as he grew older," Khandekar said. Ketan's talent came to light while representing Jhansi in the Under-12 KD Singh Babu Tournament in Lucknow, where national-level coaches noticed him.

He was subsequently admitted to the Lucknow Sports Hostel. Both his elder brothers are also accomplished hockey players. His second brother, Rohit, plays hockey at the Varanasi Sports Hostel. Speaking to **TOI**, his father, Dilip, said, "It is a matter of pride for me and the entire city. I have no words to express my happiness."

AI analyses data, cannot create original knowledge



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INDIA bloc eyes reset in first major meet since 2024 polls

23 Parties Have Confirmed Their Participation, Claims Congress

Subodh.Ghildiyal
@timesofindia.com

Ahead of the opposition alliance meeting, TMC chief Mamata Banerjee met AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal in New Delhi on Sunday

New Delhi: Amid political marginalisation of its key pillars and accumulating grievances against BJP govt, opposition parties will gather on Monday for a brainstorming on the road ahead — the first such meeting beyond parliamentary coordination since the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The meeting coincides with PM Narendra Modi completing his third term in office and amid growing dissonance among anti-BJP parties since the latest round of assembly polls.

DMK has distanced itself from the bloc after criticising Congress's crossing over to Vijay's TVK, while CPM is publicly slamming Congress for its Kerala campaign of accusing just-ousted Left CM Pinarayi Vijayan of being in cahoots with BJP. CPM general secretary MA Baby has written a strongly worded letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accusing Congress of crossing the line and asking him to "clear the air".

Congress spokesperson Jairam Ramesh announced that 23 parties have confirmed their participation in the meeting to be held at Constitution Club. He added that some parties have expressed their inability to attend "this particular meeting for their own reasons", but they have "conveyed their strong opposition to Modi govt's policies..." — a remark seeming to allude to DMK while suggesting that the opposition still hopes that the Dravidian outfit would return to the fold in the future.

Sources said the meeting has been convened at the demand of TMC, which is facing an existential crisis with large-scale defections in favour of BJP in West Bengal assembly and a looming split in its parliamentary party. The party will be represented by its leadership — Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee.

While there is no love lost between Mamata and the INDIA bloc, the former CM's plea for the meeting is widely viewed as a call for help. After BJP swept away the governing TMC in Bengal, Rahul Gandhi urged a stop to rejoicing from Congress and other opposition parties who had faced TMC's ire in the past, arguing it was time to move beyond personal animosity and focus on the "threat to democracy" posed by BJP's politics.

The discussions may focus on EC's SIR of electoral rolls in Bengal, which Rahul and TMC have blamed for the poll outcome. Other issues of the opposition are also likely to come up, as the parties try to hammer out a strategy for the road ahead.

But blame games based on intra-INDIA bloc differences could make the exchanges acrimonious, given that Congress is in the crosshairs of some players.

DMK-TMC's ouster from power in May polls has destroyed two big islands of support for the opposition. BJP gaining a firm footing in Bengal poses a serious threat to the marginalised opposition as the state sends 42 MPs to Lok Sabha, which will be critical in the outcome of the 2029 general elections. Tamil Nadu holds out hope as DMK vanquisher TVK is aligned with the bloc's parties in the state.

Besides, the substantial parliamentary contingent of the two parties has been critical to the opposition's efficacy in LS and RS.

Suspense over TVK's participation

Suspense hangs over TVK's participation in the INDIA bloc meeting, with some saying the party may not come. TN CM Vijay's party was widely seen as the bloc's new member, triggering excitement among constituents. A Congress MP claimed the bloc has parties which have members in Parliament. He said TVK could become part of the bloc by winning the RS vacancy in TN that is up for polls, but the seat has gone to Congress. He claimed TVK has no problem in joining the bloc, denying reports that the newbie wants to chart an independent course. TNN

Want UK papers, not mediation, on border issue, clarifies Nepal

New Delhi: Nepal has ruled out third-party mediation in the border dispute with India, saying the issue will be resolved through existing diplomatic mechanisms between the two countries. Following Nepal PM Balendra Shah's remarks last week urging the UK to take interest in the dispute, India had said there's no place for mediation by any third country on the issue.

Visiting Nepal foreign minister **Shisir Khanal** said Sunday Shah was seeking historical records, not mediation, from the UK when he made those remarks. "The PM would want to solve our disputes through diplomatic processes. Clearly, it would require historical evidence. We just wanted to see that we could get access to some of the documents that might be in libraries or museums in the UK. But it was not our position that we were asking for remediation," said Khanal, the first Nepal minister to visit India under the new govt led by Shah.

Khanal added that no problem was too large and no boundary too complex for India and Nepal to sit down together and resolve with an open heart, a rational mind, and mutual respect.

Khanal said Kathmandu refuses to look at India through the "distorted, hypersensitive lens of 20th century geopolitics". "We look at India with an open heart, clear eyes, and a single transparent agenda: the economic transformation of Nepal. When we look across the border, we see a rising India ...that has fundamentally and beautifully redefined itself on the global stage as a dynamic, fast-growing, tech, and economic powerhouse," he said. TNN

OMCs losing nearly ₹700 per domestic LPG cylinder: Govt

Atul.Mathur
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Oil marketing companies are still incurring an under-recovery of nearly Rs 700 on every domestic LPG cylinder despite the Rs 29 increase in the price of cooking gas refills, govt said on Sunday.

Despite a global surge in energy prices following the West Asia conflict and the benchmark Saudi CP rising nearly 46% — from $543 a tonne before the disruption to $775 a tonne in May — govt said it had moderated the effective price paid by domestic consumers and kept it well below levels prevailing in many countries. Saudi CP has further increased to $790 a tonne in June, it said.

Prices of petroleum products in India are linked to corresponding international benchmarks. The cost of supplying a domestic LPG cylinder has risen to more than Rs 1,600, govt said.

While a 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder in the capital now costs Rs 942, up from Rs 913, beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana will pay an effective Rs 642 per cylinder after receiving a subsidy of Rs 300 per refill. PMUY beneficiaries, however, will now receive the subsidy on only four refills a year, down from nine refills announced last year.

SUBSIDY STRAIN

This is the second increase in domestic LPG prices since energy supplies were disrupted by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz due to the conflict, following a Rs 60-per-cylinder hike in March. Prices of commercial LPG are deregulated and have been revised five times during this period.

Oil retailers have also raised petrol, diesel and CNG prices four times each to partly offset losses arising from higher global crude oil and gas prices.

The price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder, used by hotels and businesses, is revised automatically every month as a direct pass-through of international benchmark rates. It currently costs Rs 3,113.5 in the capital, or about Rs 164 per kg, while a domestic consumer pays about Rs 66 per kg after the latest revision.

"Through a period of sharp international cost increases, that burden has been absorbed upstream rather than passed on to the consumer," govt said in a statement. It added that under-recovery was separate from the subsidy — the gap between the international cost and the regulated retail price – which is estimated at Rs 60,000 crore in FY26, up from Rs 41,338 crore in the previous year.

Despite 54% of India's LPG imports transiting through the Strait of Hormuz before the conflict, which remains disrupted, govt said there was no shortage of any petroleum product. Refiners also ramped up domestic LPG production by more than 60% — from 32,000 tonnes a day to 52,000 tonnes a day — to offset constrained imports, it said.

Chhatrapati Shivaji statue to be installed in Israel

Mumbai: The consulate general of Israel in Mumbai has announced plans to install a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji in Israel. The announcement was made on the occasion of Shivrajyabhishek Din, which refers to the anniversary of the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji on June 6, 1674. "To make the memorial worthy of Maharaj's legacy, we sought cooperation from Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis and he immediately agreed to provide it," Yaniv Revach, consul general of Israel in Mumbai said.

"We believe that a statue in Israel would serve as a powerful symbol of the close ties between Israel and India. Such a monument would be especially meaningful given the historical links between Maharashtra and the Indian Jewish community," Revach said in his letter to Fadnavis. "This initiative will further strengthen the friendship.... and stand as a lasting tribute to the shared values of courage, leadership, and mutual respect that define Maharashtra and Israel." TNN

Trinamool HQ property owner goes to cops, wants party out

Poulami.Roy@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: The owner of the property off EM Bypass that houses the TMC headquarters told officers at Pragati Maidan police station on Sunday that he wants the former governing party of Bengal to vacate the premises.

Montu Saha, who owns A/P-1/A Canal South Road, said the tenancy agreement with TMC lapsed in late 2025, and his appeals to the party to move out went unheeded, prompting him to seek police help to get his property back.

Montu and son Amit went to their property on Sunday to speak to TMC members to convince them to shift their office. But no party functionary was present. After waiting for a couple of hours, they headed to the police station.

The father-son duo indicated that they would seek legal recourse to evict the party from the Canal South Road address, which has been known as Trinamool Bhawan since the party moved in three years ago. All party work for the 2024 LS polls and the 2026 assembly polls were coordinated from there.

The party's original HQ — also known as Trinamool Bhawan — is now mired in controversy. Javed Khan, a rebel party MLA, has claimed that the land on which Trinamool Bhawan stands belongs to his family. "I have all the documents to prove that the Topsia Road plot is owned by my family," he has said.

The party had shifted its headquarters to the Sahas' property as the leadership wanted to renovate the original Trinamool Bhawan. Montu Saha's son Amit said they had rented out their property to TMC in 2022.

"After the contract lapsed late last year, we approached them several times, saying we want the building back. The structure needs repairs. We need it for business purposes. They told us they would vacate the building by July, but we want it back now. Lately, no one in the party has been available to communicate with us on this matter. We were left with no option but to approach police," Amit said.

Before renting out the property to TMC, the Sahas ran a hotel named 'Arab Residency' from the premises.

Suvendu cites spate of arrests, says WB may need jail on Brigade Parade Ground

Bengal CM **Suvendu Adhikari** said on Sunday arrests linked to corruption during TMC's 15 years in office had become so frequent that authorities might soon need to set up a jail at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground.

Addressing a BJP programme, Adhikari said investigations were peeling back layers of wrongdoing across welfare schemes and local bodies. "Wherever you touch, a rotten stink will come out," he said, referring to a spate of arrests of TMC councillors and functionaries in recent weeks. TNN

5 rebel TMC MLAs get security upgrades

Bengal govt on Sunday upgraded the security of five Trinamool MLAs, all of whom are part of Ritabrata Banerjee-led rebel camp of 58 legislators. The MLAs — Chandranath Sinha (Bolpur), Rajendra Prasad Singh (Nalhati), Mosaraf Hossain (Murarai), Bidhan Chandra Majhi (Nanoor) and Kajal Sheikh (Hansan) — represent the entire contingent of Trinamool legislators elected from Birbhum's 11 assembly seats. The upgrades stand in sharp contrast to the treatment of Trinamool heavyweights. The security enhancements vary among the MLAs. TNN

MLAs opposed Pilot as CM in 2022: Gehlot

Jaipur: Former Rajasthan CM **Ashok Gehlot** on Sunday said that the incident in Sept 2022 was not a revolt against the Congress high command but a disagreement among the MLAs over Sachin Pilot's possible elevation as CM. Gehlot said there is no alternative to truth and Sachin Pilot should accept it.

A Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting was called in Jaipur on Sept 25, 2022, to discuss the leadership of Rajasthan govt if Gehlot were to be elected president of the party, but party MLAs close to Gehlot did not attend the meeting and opposed any move to make Pilot the CM.

Gehlot on Sunday said that he was in line to become the Congress president, but such a situation unfolded that appeared to be a conspiracy, and he ended up with a bad reputation. However, he felt sorry in front of Sonia Gandhi for not being able to get a resolution passed in the CLP meeting.

No anaemia estimates in NFHS fact sheets, officials say report not final

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The absence of anaemia estimates from the newly released National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 fact sheets has sparked questions among public health experts. In response, govt has said the indicator was excluded because of concerns over the blood-testing method used in previous survey rounds.

Health ministry officials said haemoglobin testing was not carried out in NFHS-6 due to concerns over the capillary blood sampling method used earlier. Instead, anaemia estimates will come from ICMR's diet and biomarkers survey, which uses venous blood samples and is expected to provide more accurate results.

The clarification comes amid debate over the absence of several indicators from NFHS-6 fact sheets, which cover 101 key health, nutrition and demographic parameters.

MISSING METRICS

Officials stressed that the fact sheets are only the first stage of data dissemination and not the final NFHS-6 report. A detailed national report, to be released later, will contain additional indicators, analyses and methodological details.

The ministry also rejected claims that key indicators had been dropped. According to officials, some data are being generated through specialised surveys and administrative systems. For example, sanitation and clean cooking fuel coverage are tracked through dedicated surveys, while mortality and birth registration statistics continue to come from systems such as the Sample Registration System and the Civil Registration System.

At the same time, NFHS-6 has added new indicators, including population composition, elderly population share, financial inclusion, antenatal care utilisation, vaccination coverage, severe diarrhoeal disease prevalence and expanded breastfeeding measures.

Officials said detailed family planning indicators, selected child health interventions, women's health measures and HIV-related findings will be included in the full national report.

The ministry maintained that NFHS remains India's largest household health survey and continues to be a key source of evidence for health policy and planning.

BJP neta: Hotel in Maharashtra denied accommodation for being 'Kashmiri'

Naseer.Ganai@timesofindia.com

Srinagar: BJP's media in-charge in J&K, Sajid Yousuf Shah, has alleged that he was denied accommodation at a hotel in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar on Saturday because of his Kashmiri identity.

"An hour after I checked into a hotel in Aurangabad, I was asked to leave due to concerns linked to my Kashmiri identity. The owner was courteous and candid. He acknowledged that the decision was unfair and hurtful but said he was following instructions," Shah wrote on social media on Saturday.

"For decades, countless Kashmiris have worked to strengthen the bonds between J&K and the rest of India. Most Indians have welcomed us with warmth and respect. Yet incidents like this show that stereotypes and apprehensions persist," he said. "My faith in India and its people remains unshaken. I hope we continue moving toward a future where no citizen is judged by their region, faith, or identity, but by their character and conduct..."

Congress national spokesperson Anish Gawande said, "Maharashtra is built upon the ideals of Shivaji, Shahu Maharaj, Mahatma Phule asnd Dr B R Ambedkar. I am sorry that you, as a guest in our state, were treated this way." He urged the CM to intervene.

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Rc.No.645/P&M/ Disposal of Maize Yasangi/2025-26 Date: 07.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR ONLINE E-AUCTION FOR THE SALE OF MAIZE YASANGI (RABI) 2025-26 PROCURED BY TG MARKFED.

Tender notification for online e-Auctions on disposal of Maize Yasangi (Rabi) 2025-26 procured by TG MARKFED three auctions for the quantity and lots as mentioned in the e-auction portal through https://auction.telangana.gov.in/ i.e. Telangana e-procurement portal (Applications in e-procurement portal will be available from 10:30 AM on 08.06.2026).

A. AUCTION-I:
1. E-auction bidding will commence on 15.06.2026 from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM
2. Last date for submission of EMD: 12.06.2026 upto 05:00 PM.

B. AUCTION-II:
1. E-auction bidding will commence on 16.06.2026 from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM
2. Last date for submission of EMD: 12.06.2026 upto 05:00 PM.

C. AUCTION-III:
1. E-auction bidding will commence on 17.06.2026 from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM
2. Last date for submission of EMD: 15.06.2026 upto 05:00 PM

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SKILL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

NOTICE

Request for Proposal (RFP) for hiring of a Recruitment Agency (RA) - cum - Language Training Agency (LTA) for the Chief Minister - European Language & Employment Via Aspirational Training & Engagement (CM - ELEVATE) Scheme

The Skill Development Department (SDD), Government of Sikkim, invites proposals from eligible agencies for hiring them to provide necessary services as the Recruitment Agency (RA) cum Language Training Agency (LTA) under the Chief Minister - European Language & Employment via Aspirational Training & Engagement (CM - ELEVATE) Scheme.

Key Details:
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- Last Date for Proposal Submission: 06/07/2026 (1500 hrs)
- Tender Fee: 5,000/- (Non-refundable Demand Draft)
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): NA
- RFP Document: Available at https://sdd.sikkim.gov.in/

Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope to the address specified in the RFP, on or before the deadline indicated therein. Any proposal received after the prescribed date and time will be rejected and will not be considered for evaluation.

(Samdup Bhutia) SCS, Special Secretary-cum-Nodal Officer
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cebuildings@rediffmail.com
Tel.- (0674)-2391523

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No-B-IV-H-(H&D)-94/2024 Lr. No.- 19726 Bhubaneswar, the 4th June, 2026

Invitation for Bids
Bid Identification No. CE-Bldg-I-12/2026-27

1. The Chief Engineer, Buildings-I, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the work, "Construction of Academic, Administrative and Hostel Building for ANMTC Baripada in the district of Mayurbhanj for the year 2025-26" as detailed below.
2. Nature of work : Building Work
3. No. of work : 01 Nos.
4. Bid Cost. : Rs. 10,000/-
5. Class of Contractor : 'A'/ Special
6. Availability of Bid Documents in the website : From dt.12.06.2026 to 17.00 Hours of dt. 29.06.2026.
7. Date of Opening of Bid : Dt. 30.06.2026 at 11:30 AM.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Buildings-I, Odisha
OIPR - 34001/34117/1/26-27/0025

32001/329/2627

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, MEGA LIFT BHUBANESWAR
Plot no. A 8/2, Bhoinagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751022
E-Mail : cemlpwr.od@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 04ML/2026-27

The Chief Engineer, Megalift on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online tender through "E" procurement for the work as detailed in the Annexure to this bid notice.

ANNEXURE TO BID NOTICE

Name of the work	Appointment of Proof Engineering Consultant (PEC) for implementation of Mega Lift projects in Cluster No. XXVII, XXX & XXXVII
Cost of Tender Paper	Rs. 10,000/-
EMD/Bid Security	Rs.2,84,500/-
Mode of payment of tender paper Cost & EMD	Online
Period of Completion	36 (Thirty-Six) Calendar months
Availability of Bid document for sale and receipt through on-line	From dt.09.06.2026, 10.00 A.M. to dt.29.06.2026, up to 5.00 P.M.
Last date / time of receipt of bid in the portal	29.06.2026 (5.00PM)
Date of Pre-bid Conference	20.06.2026, 11.00 AM
Date of opening of Techno-Commercial bid through online	On dt. 30.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Megalift.
Class of Contractor	The bidder should be registered under the Companies Act, 1956/2013
Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder	The Bidder must possess compatible digital signature certificate (DSC).
The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR web site https:/dowr.odisha.gov.in	
Name & Address of the OIT	Chief Engineer, Megalift, Plot No. A-8/2, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751022. Ph.No -0674-2567252, Email ID: cemlpwr.od@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place https://tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Megalift Bhubaneswar
OIPR-32001/32478/1/26-27/0001

34001/295/2627

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ELECTRICAL CIRCLE (R&B) NIRMAN SOUDHA BHUBANESWAR
E-mail : seec.bbsr2010@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. S.E.E.C (R&B) 16/2026-27
No 2458 /Date : 01.06.2026

The Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for E.I. works which are to be received through online bidding, double cover system as detailed in : https://tendersorissa.gov.in. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from dt.11.06.2026 at 05.00 P.M. to dt. 25.06.2026 up to 05.00 P.M. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened dt. 29.06.2026 at 11.30 A.M. in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, BBSR

OIPR-34001/34006/1/26-27/0016

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICES

The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy. CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340711 or AMM/HQ, 9163340713 for notice Sl. No. [A] and Dy. CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340711 or AMM/HQ-II, 9163340724 for notice Sl. No. [B]. Office Address: Office of the PCMM /CLW/Chittaranjan. [A] Notice No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 04/06/2026. Sl. No.:[1]. Tender No.: 73263713B. Brief Description of Item: High Tensile Transition C.B. Coupler Without Draft Gear as per RDSO Drg. No. - SK-DL-3430, ALT.-8 or latest except item nos. 18 to 20,24 to 47 along with part Drg. Nos. SK- 62724 alt-23 or latest, SKDL-2496 alt-6 or latest, SK-69508 alt-4 or latest, SKDL-2494 alt-17 or latest and SKD L-2495 alt-12 or latest. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. Quantity: 387.00 Nos. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees): ₹722640.00. Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 24/06/2026 at11:00 AM. [B] Notice No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 04/06/2026. Sl. No.:[1]. Tender No.: 70261255B. Brief Description of Item: Modified Cow Catcher Assly For WAG-9HC Loco To Specification No. CLW/ MS/ 3/107 ALT-8, DRG NO.1209-02.140-032 ALT-11 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. Quantity: 336.00 set. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees): ₹390460.00. Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 26/06/2026 at 11:00 AM.

PR5/365 PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan
visit us on:www.facebook.com/clwrailways

25001/349/2627 e-mail : serw_ctc@yahoo.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK

No. Tender Online RWC -07/26 Letter No.- Date :

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the work : Construction of Road & Bridge works.
2. Class of contractor
   c) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crore & upto Rs.50.00 Crore : Special Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
   d) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crore & upto Rs. 20.00 Crore : A Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
   c) Estimated cost more than Rs. 20.00 Lakh & upto Rs.3.00 Crore : B Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
3. Time for Completion : As specified in the Column-7 of the Annexure.
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack	Tender Online RWC -07/26	10.06.2026 at 11.30 A.M.	24.06.2026 upto 05.00 P.M.	24.06.2026 upto 02.00 P.M.	25.06.2026 at 11.30 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Cuttack
OIPR - 25001/25097/1/26-27/0005

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division,Hassan

IFT No.06/2026.27, Dated: 02.06.2026

Tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in two cover system through KPPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Hassan and Chikkamagalur Districts works as per KW-1, 2 & 3 maximum tender amount is Rs.80.70 lakhs & minimum tender amount is Rs.3.20 lakhs. The last date of receipt of tender is 16-06-2026 upto 5.00 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPP-portal and the above office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Hassan.

ಖಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಟೆಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/199/ಕೆಐಸ್ಎಂಐಪಿ/2026-27

Maths remains a killer subject as learning gaps widen across grades

Career in Design & Architecture
NID NIFT UID
Anant ISDI GLS
UCEED PARUL CEED
NATA CEPT JEE-II

PIMPRI CHINCHWAD UNIVERSITY
ADMISSION OPEN AY 2025 - 26
AI

AVIATION TRAINING
THROUGH SIMULATION
BBA
B.Sc.
B.Com
BCA
BBA
HBS

SOUTH EAST ASIAN GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS
S.E.A COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
SRI A KRISHNAPPA JI MERITORIOUS SCHOLARSHIP
FEE FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS (CET RANKERS)
COLLEGE CET CODE: E133
APPLICABLE FOR THE A.Y 2026-27
Limited Seats Available
ADMISSIONS OPEN
CSE | ISE | ECE | AI & ML | AI & DS
IoT & Cyber Security | MECHANICAL | CIVIL
Contact : 8050075545 / 7353945999

RNS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION
COURSERA SAMSUNG
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LIMITED SEATS ONLY
50 LPA | 1.11LPM | 1060+ | 335 | 15000+
CET 3000

Their job is to find fault with the Taj

Scores of workers daily scour every corner of the grand monument, relying mainly on skills built up over the years and experience handed down generations to ensure it stays damage-free and safe

Sudeep.Lavania @timesofindia.com

Where others see flawless texture and clean lines, their keen eye picks up stains and cracks. And while most are awed by the delicate ornamentation, they find themselves constantly worrying about a stone coming loose here or there. Then there are beehives and rogue plants to remove, and many other unwanted elements to protect against. The attention is not excessive because it is, after all, a timeless beauty and a wonder of the world that has to be kept looking stunning as ever. Those engaged in the maintenance of Taj Mahal say it's all a labour of love.

Long before the first tourist buses arrive at the Taj, Dilip Sharma is already on his rounds. At around 4am, he starts walking the perimeter of the monument that Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan got built between 1632 and 1654 in memory of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. He checks the stonework, scans the lawns, and looks for anything that shouldn't be there. Sharma is one of roughly 80 employees of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) — which takes care of the Taj — for whom the day begins before the break of dawn and the vigil never ends.

> We have very limited use of machines. While carrying out work related to beehives or uprooting a small plant, we find a strong pillar or beam, anchor ourselves there, and then a worker goes down and manually uproots a plant or removes a beehive
>
> — *Prince Vajpayee*
> *Senior conservation assistant, ASI*

Gardeners, cleaners, beehive removers, restorers of stone-inlay work, they are all at it every day, combing every inch of the sprawling marble complex on the Yamuna's banks. If the gardeners tend the Mughal-era Charbagh gardens with an expertise perfected over the years, special teams remove beehives and uproot the small plants that persistently sprout out from the crevices in the mausoleum's stonework. Known informally as the 'Bankati' squads, these workers rely largely on their hands, rather than machinery — the structure is too delicate for that — to keep the complex spic and span.

Officials say that ensuring that the structure made of white 'makrana' marble and red sandstone retains its pristine appearance is non-negotiable; it's an objective achieved through an almost invisible routine of daily labour. "I'm proud of the job that I do," says Hari Singh, 59, a gardener who has spent three decades at the Taj. "It feels like serving history itself."

ASI's senior conservation assistant, Prince Vajpayee, who till recently was posted at the Taj and oversaw much of the monument's upkeep, says the team's work covers four broad categories — general maintenance, scientific conservation, security, and miscellaneous duties.

The maintenance work alone would tax most institutions. Bees are a recurring problem; their hives, if left unchecked, can damage the marble and unsettle visitors. The team handles extractions by hand, securing themselves to structural anchor points and removing hives with practised care. "We have very limited use of machines. While carrying out work related to beehives or uprooting a small plant, we depend on hand-eye coordination. We find a strong pillar or beam, anchor ourselves there, and then a worker goes down and manually uproots a plant or removes a beehive," says Vajpayee.

Ram Prakash Mistri, a senior member of the maintenance team, is the one called upon when a crack appears in the marble, a water outlet fails, or the intricate *jali* screens need attention.

"Taj Mahal feels like my second home. I now know almost every nook and corner of the complex, and the spots most prone to problems," Mistri says matter-of-factly.

Conserving the Taj's defining decorative feature, the pietra dura, is a task that needs special attention. Known locally as *pachchikari*, it involves the inlaying of semi-precious stones like carnelian, coral, agate, lapis lazuli, malachite, mother-of-pearl directly into marble with great precision. Over time, sections come loose, stains accumulate, the mortar weakens. Restoring that requires traditional expertise and considerable patience.

The mortar used in repairs — made of a mixture of white lime, marble dust, gum babool, batasha, belgiri, and urad dal — is made by a traditional process that was followed by Mughal craftsmen.

The restoration work extends across the monument, including the original cenotaphs inside the inner chambers that are closed to visitors. "These designs are among the finest examples of Mughal craftsmanship. We periodically repair damaged sections and remove stains after due approvals," said Vajpayee.

Mohammed Kasim, 42, a Tajganj-based artisan whose family has practised pietra dura for generations, has extensively contributed to the restoration work. "Pietra dura is not just our livelihood, it is our heritage. Every piece we create reflects the same patience and precision that was employed by our forefathers," he says.

ASI has also done major conservation work on the Taj's main dome, giving it a mud-pack treatment. The restoration work went on for nearly six months, during which the dome remained covered with iron scaffolding that was specially designed to distribute weight evenly and prevent structural stress. The treatment, aimed at removing yellow stains and restoring the marble's original lustre, involved application of a thick layer of lime-rich clay on the surface, allowing it to dry, and then gently removing it with soft brushes before washing the marble.

But the most dramatic recent intervention came after heavy rains in Sept 2024 caused seepage in the main dome. LiDAR and thermal scanning were deployed to locate the leakage points; drone surveys mapped the cracks. Scaffolding was erected to reach spots beneath the dome's 32-ft finial, some 73m above ground, with experts from the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee, brought in for help.

The operation took the better part of eight months. Leading it was Smita S Kumar, ASI's Agra Circle superintending archaeologist, who climbed the monument along with assistant superintending archaeologist Alka Singh to directly supervise the repairs, an intervention that's said to be quite unprecedented for a senior officer. "Working at such a height on the Taj Mahal was a mix of awe and responsibility," Kumar says. "Being detail-oriented is very important in this field."

That attention to detail, along with patience and perseverance, is displayed by all those — officials to workers — who work on the Taj's maintenance.

Summing up, Hari Singh says he has watched a lot change at the Taj over the 30 years he's worked here. The crowds have grown and technologies have changed, but the threats — pollution, seepage, slow encroachment by insects and vegetation — have remained largely the same, as has the work required to deal with them. "For us, preserving the Taj Mahal is more than a job," he says. "It's a responsibility to safeguard a global symbol of heritage."

TAJ'S CONSTANT CARE ROUTINE

Rogue Plants | These sprout up in the crevices in the marble structure. Special teams have been assigned the task of uprooting them

Beehives | A recurring problem, if left unchecked, these hives can damage the marble and unsettle visitors

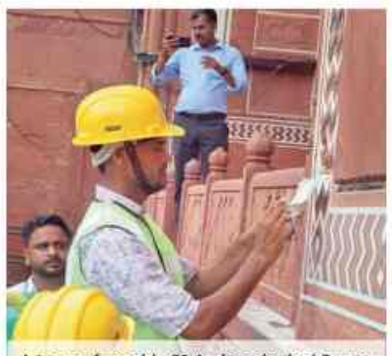
Pietra Dura | Locally known as pachchikari, it refers to the stone-inlay work — using semi-precious stones like carnelian, coral, etc — that's the defining feature of the monument. Over time, sections come loose, stains accumulate, the mortar weakens. Local artisans who use traditional techniques have been roped in to attend to repairs

Yellowing | Taj's main dome received a mud-pack treatment, which was aimed at removing yellow stains and restoring the marble's original lustre. A thick layer of lime-rich clay was applied on the surface, before being gently removed with soft brushes and water

Seepage | Heavy rains in Sept 2024 caused water seepage in the main dome. LiDAR and thermal scanning were used to locate the leakage points; drone surveys mapped the cracks. Scaffolding was erected to reach the problem spots, with experts from the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee, roped in for help

EXCLUSIVE ACCESS: Those working to keep the Taj glowing are privy to some rare views of the monument, like when they ascend the spire for repairs

Photos: ASI, Hemant Kumar



A team of roughly 80 Archaeological Survey of India employees, including gardeners, cleaners, stone-inlay artisans, is in charge of the Taj's maintenance

Figures are allocations to ASI's Agra Circle, of which Taj Mahal accounts for a significant share

DU prof's tenants killed her, brought son, 13, to 'blend in'

Abhay@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A multi-crore ancestral property in West Bengal allegedly was the motive behind the murder of Delhi University assistant professor Debosmita Paul, police said Sunday, after arresting a couple from Bardhaman and apprehending their minor son for the brutal killing reported last week from east Delhi.

The family had been residing since 2023 in an ancestral property in Bardhaman that had fallen to Paul's share through a family settlement. The couple allegedly wanted to purchase the property from Paul, who had refused and had repeatedly asked the tenants to vacate the premises.

'PROPERTY ROW'

Police said the couple travelled from Bardhaman to Delhi and checked into a guest house. They brought along their son to "blend in" as an ordinary family. During verification of guest records, police found they had used Aadhaar cards belonging to someone else.

On Wednesday, the couple arrived at Paul's apartment complex. CCTV footage captured the masked duo entering the building carrying bags and making their way to the sixth-floor flat.

During interrogation, investigators learnt that the professor welcomed the couple inside and even offered them water. During the ensuing conversation, Paul once again asked them to vacate the property. According to police, the husband allegedly attacked the professor with a blunt object, causing severe head injuries. As she attempted to resist, he allegedly restrained her while his wife used a sharp-edged weapon to slash her hand.

"The husband claimed that he had brought the weapon from his hometown, while the woman stated that it was picked up from inside the house. We are verifying both versions," a senior police officer said.

Investigators said the suspects remained inside the flat for nearly 30 minutes after the murder. During this period, they allegedly changed clothes, attempted to remove traces of evidence and then fled the scene.

The crime came to light on Thursday afternoon when Paul's sister alerted police around 2.30pm after finding her dead inside the apartment. Special CP (law and order) Devesh Chandra Srivastava formed multiple teams under supervision of DCP (East) Rajeev Kumar to investigate the case.

A police team flew to West Bengal and continued tracking the suspects through CCTV footage and technical evidence. They were traced from Bardhaman railway station after deboarding a train and eventually located at their hideout.

Lockdown just the 1st layer of multi-tier security framework

▶Continued from page 1

Every stage of the examination cycle — from question paper development and translation to printing, storage, transportation and distribution — is now under enhanced oversight

Officials familiar with the preparations said paper setters, moderators, translators and other personnel associated with the confidential stages of question paper development are staying at a secured facility under supervision.

Mobile phones, laptops and personal communication devices have been restricted, while access to the internet and outside contacts has been tightly controlled. Entry and exit are being monitored and documented, with only authorised personnel permitted access to the facility. Digital devices, including smartwatches, are kept out of bounds, they said.

The "lockdown" of the paper-setting process forms the first layer of a multi-tier security framework put in place by the education ministry and National Testing Agency (NTA) ahead of the June 21 re-examination — to be conducted in pen-and-paper mode from 2 pm to 5.15 pm across 551 cities in India and 14 cities abroad.

Officials said every stage of the examination cycle — from question paper development and translation to moderation, printing, packaging, storage, transportation and distribution — is now being subjected to enhanced oversight. The entire process has been compartmentalised to ensure that no single individual or group has access to the complete chain of operations.

The transportation of question papers has emerged as another critical focus area. Govt has explored the use of Indian Air Force aircraft for secure movement of examination material across the country. In the digital domain, authorities are conducting "round-the-clock monitoring of social media platforms, messaging applications and online forums to identify fake question papers, misinformation campaigns and suspicious activity".

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has asked officials to ensure all vulnerabilities identified in the earlier exam cycle are addressed.

NTA releases exam city intimation slip

NTA Saturday released the Advance Examination City Intimation Slip for NEET-UG 2026 re-examination. Candidates can download the city intimation slip from the official NEET website using their login credentials.

NTA clarified that the document is not the admit card and only informs candidates about the city where their examination centre will be located to facilitate advance travel planning. The admit cards will be issued separately at a later date. Officials said efforts have been made to allot candidates their first-choice city wherever possible. Candidates and parents have been advised to rely only on NTA websites for re-examination updates. TNN

Shah to launch LPMS for border mgmt

Union home minister Amit Shah will on Tuesday launch the Land Port Management System (LPMS), an advanced platform enabling end-to-end digital workflows for cargo processing and passenger movement at land ports, on par with airports and seaports, to ensure efficient and transparent border management. TNN

Law grad dies, woman takes ill at Mumbai music event

Mumbai: A 28-year-old law graduate died and a woman was hospitalised following suspected excessive alcohol consumption at a music event at Worli's NSCI Dome on Saturday. Police said the exact cause of death would be determined only after postmortem and forensic reports are received.

Tardeo police on Sunday registered an FIR against the event organisers, Spacebound Web Labs CEO Karan Singh and manager Parag Narendra Uke, under BNS sections related to causing death due to negligence and negligent conduct with respect to machinery. Police recorded Singh's statement at night and served him a notice. Their lawyer, Zulfikar Memon, confirmed that an FIR had been filed but refused to elaborate, saying the matter was under investigation. Vrishabh Mahendra Gan-gurde had gone to the 'Klangkuenstler All Night Long' event with friends. He said he was feeling unwell during the concert and was rushed to a hospital, where he died during treatment. TNN

2 Dalit men assaulted for 'theft' in Punjab

Bathinda: A violent mob allegedly stripped, tied, and dragged two Dalit men through agricultural fields in scorching heat over suspicion of theft in Punjab's Muktsar district Saturday. The attack came two days after a viral video from Haryana's Hansi district showed a Dalit man hung upside down in a well for apparently stealing a water pump, reports Neel Kamal. Punjab State Scheduled Castes Commission took suo motu notice of the brutality in Jhord village and sought a report from Muktsar SSP to be submitted through the SP (HQ) by June 9. TNN

I I I T Bhubaneswar
Imagine. Innovate. Inspire.
(A University established by the Government of Odisha)

No.: 234/IIIT-Bh/10168 Date : 06.06.2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLOR AS A CONSULTANT

IIIT Bhubaneswar is an ambitious initiative of the Government of Odisha to establish a next Generation Institute of Technology and has been conferred University status.

Offline applications are invited for Psychological Counsellor as a consultant.

For further details, visit: **www.iiit-bh.ac.in**

Sd/- REGISTRAR

AT : Gothapatna, PO : Malipada, Bhubaneswar - 751003, Odisha, India, Web : www.iiit-bh.ac.in

दिल्ली प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय
DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
Established by Govt. of Delhi vide Act 6 of 2009)
(Formerly Delhi College of Engineering)
Shahbad Daulatpur, Bawana Road, Delhi-110042

Admission Announcement for the MBA (Business Analytics) Programme (2026-28)

Delhi School of Management Invites Applications for Admission in Two year MBA (Business Analytics) Programme

The MBA in Business Analytics at DSM, DTU is designed to blend core management knowledge with advanced data analytics skills. The program equips students with the expertise to make data-driven decisions that enhance business strategy and performance.

Online applications are invited for the admission in two year MBA (Business Analytics) Programme (2026-28 Batch).

Eligibility Criteria:

a. A candidate who has passed any bachelor's degree examination with atleast one paper in mathematics/statistics/applied mathematics with a minimum 60% marks in aggregate or equivalent CGPA from a recognized university/institution is eligible to apply. However, a relaxation of 10% in marks shall be given in eligibility criteria to SC/ST/PD candidates.
b. A candidate who has valid CAT-2025/MAT-2025/MAT-2026 percentile.
c. Those who are appearing in the final semester examination, and possess a valid CAT/MAT score, may also apply, provided that they submit the proof of eligibility by a specific date to be declared by the University, otherwise the admission of the candidate to the university will be cancelled. Candidates appearing in the final semester/year should have at least 60% marks in aggregate or equivalent CGPA in the final (overall) result.

Opening Date of Registration	4th May, 2026 (Monday)
Last Date of filling online application form	16th June, 2026 (Tuesday)

Visit **www.dtu.ac.in** for a detailed information brochure and online application form.

Sd/-
Chairperson
MBA (Business Analytics) Admission 2026

For any other query, please contact:
Chairperson, Admission MBA (Business Analytics) 2026.
Delhi Technological University (Formerly Delhi College of Engineering),
Bawana Road, Delhi-110042
Email- mbaadmissions@dtu.ac.in Contact : 011-27296203

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client has entered into an Agreement of Sale for the Schedule Property from **Smt. Vijaya @ Vijaya S Gowda**, aged about 77 years, W/o late Dr. K.M. Srinivasa Gowda, R/at No 452, 38th 'A' Cross, 9th Main Road, 5th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru-560041.

I hereby notice to public that anybody is having any claim or interest in or over the Schedule Property, may write to the undersigned with documentary proof within **15 days** from this date, if no valid objections are received within the stipulated period, my client shall proceed on that basis, and there are no claims whatsoever nature.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Dry Land bearing **Survey No 37/3**, Khatha No 143, MR No 05/2003-04, measuring **5.19 guntas including 12 guntas of B-Karab**, situated at **Uttarahalli-3 Hobli, Nelaguli Village, Bengaluru South Tq, Bengaluru** and bounded on the:

East by : Land bearing Sy No 34 and 35,
West by : Land bearing Sy No 47 and 48,
North by : Remaining land bearing Sy No 37,
South by : Land bearing Sy No 36,

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Agricultural Dry Land bearing **Survey No 48/5**, Khatha No 126, MR No 05/2003-04, **measuring 12 guntas,** situated at **Uttarahalli-3 Hobli, Nelaguli Village, Bengaluru South Tq, Bengaluru** and bounded on the:

East by : Land bearing Sy No 37,
West by : Pipeline Road,
North by : Remaining land bearing Sy No 48,
South by : Land bearing Sy No 47,

Prakash Shetty & Associates,
Advocates,
14/38, 'Shivakrupa' 2nd Floor, Opp to K.G. Shamanna Park, DVG Road, Near Nagasandra Circle, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004
email : prakashshettyadvocate@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client is desirous of purchasing an extent of 15 Acres of agricultural land comprised in Survey No. 77, situated at Cheemasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, which is more fully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule Property" the schedule property being originally granted to Sri.B.Huchegowda S/o Billiappa, in Block-IV- 5 Acres, Block V-5 Acres and Block-VII- 5 Acres in all measuring 15 Acres.

Any person or persons asserting any right, title, interest or period, in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner whatsoever or having any claim against the Schedule Property or the documents thereof or against the Owners or objecting to such transaction with our client, should write to the undersigned **within ten days (10 days)** from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to Schedule Property or any part thereof, after which period our client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **agricultural land measuring 15 Acres comprised in Survey No. 77,** situated at **Cheemasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk** and bounded on:

East by : Road;
West by : Land in Survey No.103;
North by : Gudda and land in Survey No.115 & 110;
South by : Lands in Survey No. 106, 107, 108, 100 and remaining land in same Survey No.77.

L.S Kiran Mayee Reddy, Advocate
Kiran Mayee Law Firm,
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Ph No. 9739163474
Date: 08.06.2026 Place: Bengaluru

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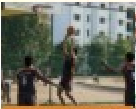

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You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs

– PROVERB

The Stayatollahs

100 days of Iran war are littered with US missteps. Trump should start firing some advisers

It's a conflict that nobody – except Israel – wanted. And yet, the US-Israel war against Iran has now lasted 100 days, with no clear end in sight. To put it bluntly, this speaks to terribly poor strategy. Hundred days of immense losses and disruptions, thousands killed, hundreds of thousands displaced, and unprecedented global economic pain, thanks to the shuttering of Strait of Hormuz . But the war, like a typical fight between bar bullies, first threw logic to the wind, and is now trapped in a battle of machismo, with neither side willing to back down.

US plans were doomed from the moment the Iranian regime withstood the initial assault, and refused to crumble. Washington completely misread the nature and strategic depth of the mullah-led govt. Iran is not Libya. It's a country that has survived more than four decades of sanctions. The regime, though brutal, is also strategically supple. But by attacking Iran, US ensured that the regime had no choice but to go on the offensive. That in turn rallied the regime's supporters, and ensured its survival – the opposite of Washington's initial goal.

Meanwhile, Israel is operating on a completely different strategic plane. It is carrying out operations in southern Lebanon against Hezbollah – a ceasefire extension announced last week barely lasted hours. It's again ramping up operations in Gaza, despite last Oct's ceasefire there. And it has shown the willingness to carry out limited operations even in Syria. The Israel-Palestine Two State Solution is in tatters, Tel Aviv is potentially preparing for future conflicts (with Türkiye?), and Netanyahu, facing elections later this year, is giving wings to Israeli far-right's dreams of 'Greater Israel'.

So, what we have is a perfect Mexican standoff: Iran weaponises Hormuz, and locks up a fifth of global supplies in oil and gas. US does a counter-blockade of Iranian ports. Tehran periodically targets Gulf states like Kuwait and Bahrain, to demonstrate it still retains offensive capabilities. Gulf Arabs, upset with the whole thing, want to restrain Iran's wartime exuberance. Israel wants US to finish the job in West Asia, and therefore, plays fast and loose with ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon – a red line for Tehran. Actually, US would have been far more successful had it threatened a blockade of Iran first, and offered negotiations, instead of going in all guns blazing. Tehran would have had reasons to respond positively, even leading to an Armenia-Azerbaijan-type success for US. Trump, therefore, should seriously channel his old TV persona, and start firing some of his advisers. That would be a service to the world.

No Handshakes

Sport is no longer insulated from geopolitics, but every qualified athlete must get to compete

Organised sports play inside a theatre of politeness. Sportsmanship, it's often called. Ritualised handshakes, lining up after a match, applauding opponents, accepting officials' decisions, wearing uniforms, observing rules…these are all built around "the good life" idea. Of how human beings ought to live together. Their rawest impulses regulated by norms and rituals. In lawn tennis, the handshake at the end of the match takes place at the net, the barrier becoming the meeting point. But last week, after Russia's Mirra Andreeva defeated Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk 6-1, 6-3 at the French Open semifinal, Kostyuk refused to shake hands with Andreeva. This, however, was no shock. Gradually, as wars and other geopolitical skirmishes change the playing field, performative politeness is being replaced by something else. Some call the new kid on the block, authenticity. Being real.

Some things in life are ahead of sportsmanship, Suryakumar Yadav said after a no-handshake Asia Cup dust-up with Pakistan. But there remains an important distinction, between what sportspersons do of their own volition, and what their govt forces them to do against their wishes. For example, rather than face Israeli opponents, Iranian judokas and wrestlers are made to accept defeat, to avoid the optics of a handshake. Various defections have made it clear how unhappy Iranians are with such curbs. And now, with a football World Cup taking place in the shadow of the Feb 28 war, international restraints have multiplied. The Iran team's training camp forced to relocate from Tuscan to Tijuana, highly restrictive US visas, reduced coaching, all of this with bombs still threatening their homes.

Geopolitical fragmentation is seeping into the world of sports. It can no longer be idealised as a politically neutral arena. Still, one ideal must hold. Everyone who qualifies for a competition, must be allowed to participate in it.

Wild Objections

Animals demand linguistic justice

Sunil Warrier

At precisely 10am, under the unforgiving Mumbai sun at Azad Maidan, animals assembled in what authorities are calling the largest interspecies march since Noah invited several into his ark. Association Against Verbal Abuse of Animals (AAVAA) is what their collective's called. There were loud slogans, occasional barks, brays, mews, roars, and general cacophony.

Dogs arrived early, naturally, only to discover that Cats had already occupied the media-friendly shaded area. What followed was not "birds of a feather flock together", even as Reporter Raju, having jostled through a sea of bodies around and below him, furiously took notes. "Humans are the real snakes in the grass!" hissed Cobra. A delegation of Donkeys carried banners reading: STOP CALLING US STUBBORN AS MULES. Nearby, a group of Owls looked deeply offended at centuries of pressure to remain "wise as an owl".

"Every time humans betray each other, suddenly they 'smell a rat'. Why not smell a human for once," said a voice from above, which Reporter Raju jotted down as that of Giraffe. Rats, meanwhile, held perhaps the most emotional press conference of the day. "We have tolerated 'rat race', 'dirty rat', 'don't rat on me' for generations," squeaked their leader. "Frankly, humans invented tax fraud, spam calls, reality TV, pineapple pizza. Yet somehow, *we're* the villains?" Crocodile attempted to speak but was booed for displaying what the crowd dismissed as "crocodile tears".

Elephants demanded legal action against motivational speakers who constantly advised people to "never forget because elephants never forget". One elderly elephant clarified that he had, in fact, forgotten why he came to the protest. Then came the final straw. A coalition of roaches got onstage with the placard: WE OBJECT TO METAPHORICAL USAGE. "For centuries," declared Cockroach in a trembling voice, "humans have compared corrupt politicians, terrible roommates, and ex-boyfriends to us. We survive nuclear threats, pesticides, and Mumbai apartments during monsoon season. Frankly, we deserve better." Thunderous applause followed. Even Snakes gave a standing ovation.

As evening approached, animals passed a unanimous resolution demanding immediate linguistic reform. Humans were warned that unless changes were made, the animal kingdom would retaliate by inventing its own idioms. Notebook spilling over with words, Reporter Raju made his way to the office trying not to add to the crushed casualties on the ground, not figuratively but literally.

The Cockroach Isn't A Nuisance

India's too big for a movement of the young to upend its system. And youth anger doesn't necessarily produce better governance. That said, politicians must respond to what justifiably angry young Indians are saying

R Jagannathan

Politicians tend to get spooked when threats, real or imagined, emerge from an unexpected source. A social media phenomenon called the Cockroach Janta Party got the Modi govt worried enough to block its website, and related social media handles on Instagram and X. But its founder, one Abhijeet Dipke, seems unbowed. Perhaps because the NEET paper leak and the uproar over Class 12 CBSE results, appear to have triggered wide interest in CJP.

CJP is both signal and noise. The signal is more important than the political noise and any embarrassment it may be causing. Dipke and supporters were given permission by Delhi police to hold protests at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on June 6, but this may not be the end of the story. NEET, for example, opens the doors to careers in medicine. When you adopt a mammoth project like NEET, you cannot afford to goof up.

Still, comparisons to the Bangladesh and Nepal GenZ protests, which upended govts, are far-fetched, for India is far too diverse to unite under one cause, even if it's the cause of youth. And even if CJP's sudden popularity is indicative of growing restiveness among India's youth.

India's 15-29 cohort is, often, not gainfully employed. According to Azim Premji University's *State of Working India 2026*, nearly two out of five young people in the 15-25 age group are unemployed, and even those in the 25-29 age group face 20% unemployment. Those who do get jobs are often in gig work.

It's not as if any poor or lower middle income country with a significant youth population, has found an answer to the problems of mass unemployment or low wages. It doesn't help when the political leadership in most countries largely comprises men in the older age groups. There simply aren't enough people from lower age groups in govt, who can speak to and engage with young people, including a restive GenZ, for whom social media is the first go-to forum for engagement.

But recent election results in Assam, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu have been won by Himanta Biswa Sarma, Suvendu Adhikari and Joseph Vijay – who are in their 50s, energetic to a fault, and who hold some appeal for youth. BJP also doesn't lack for relatively younger leaders. Yogi Adityanath is 54, Fadnavis 55, Pramod Sawant and Rekha Gupta are also in their early 50s.

Congress has Rahul Gandhi at 55, but it doesn't have a second line of younger leaders in most states. In Kerala, where it won big, it had to choose between three leaders who were all in the 60s. The recently deposed Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah is 78, and his replacement DK Shivakumar is 64.

image: AI

While dynastic parties have less of a problem, unless they have no heirs at all or have incompetent ones, most cadre-based political parties should be grooming much younger leaders, those still in their 30s or 40s, who can vibe well with the youth, and put them in positions of power. This is not to suggest that age alone matters, but in a world where social media has turned our sense of reality upside down, and sent youth aspirations to unrealistic levels, it is important to at least understand what is going on in the minds of youth.

The NEET and CBSE mess-ups should be taken seriously, not only because they indicate that the system is corrupt or incompetent or both, but also because so many young people think that an exam is what stands between them and a reasonable career. If so many parents are investing their life's savings in coaching classes, to enable their sons and daughters to crack an exam, the problem is not CJP, but something worse: Hopelessness, if one fails to crack an exam.

Modi govt, various BJP and Congress state govts, and all political parties that hope to govern some state some day, should be worried about their likely lack of real connection with today's youth. This is the real tragedy in a country with 360-370mn people in the 15-29 cohort whose hopes will have to be fulfilled at least partially between now and 2040-45, when this group's share in the population starts falling.

It's pointless getting angry at CJP or scared. Opposition parties, too, should not think BJP's discomfiture is somehow to their benefit. When youth erupt, they will take down many leaders' fortunes, and not only those of the parties in office.

General youth discontent seldom ends well for any country. Govts were toppled in Nepal and Bangladesh, but the succeeding govts do not necessarily have better answers on unemployment or inflation or the AI challenge. The Arab Spring that spread out from Tunisia, did not solve anything for the youth. In fact, it replaced many incumbent govts with even more dictatorial ones.

While one should not assume that such things will also happen here, the warning signs must be noted, and seen as a message favouring change. Whichever political party gets this message faster than the rest will probably strike it rich in future elections. But more than winning elections, these parties must deal with the issues that young people are now obsessing over. The key is effective communication and the rebuilding of hope in the future.

CJP may or may not sustain as a phenomenon, but youth disillusionment and angst will be with us for a long time. We should take note of it early, before it boils over into something anarchic and counter-productive. The noise can be discounted, the signal cannot.

One Fire In Capital, Three Lessons For India

Delhi B&B tragedy shows why safe density, proportionate fire compliance, and continuous inspection matter more than ritual NOCs – a lesson every Indian city needs to learn

Piyush Doshi

Last week, 21 people died when a fire tore through a five-storey bed-and-breakfast in Hauz Rani, Malviya Nagar, Delhi. Thirteen were foreign nationals. Reports say the building had no fire NOC, a single entry and exit, sealed windows, a locked terrace, and a basement kitchen from which smoke and flames moved up the central staircase.

This was a specific failure. It was not an unusual one. In Dec 2025, a nightclub fire killed 25 in Goa. In April 2025, a firecracker warehouse blast killed 21 in Gujarat. In 2022, 27 died in a commercial building fire in Mundka. The locations change; the script does not.

Arrests, FIRs, and sealing drives will follow. They should. Criminal negligence must be punished. But govts that stop there will repeat a familiar cycle: outrage, mass inspections, sealings, court stays, overburdened officials, and then business as usual until the next fire.

Ad hoc drives do not merely fail – they drain the administrative and judicial capacity that a real safety system needs. Every sealed building that reopens on a court stay signals to thousands of others that the system does not mean what it says. Accountability and reform must run together.

First, Indian cities must make safe, legal density possible. After a fire in an illegal building, the instinct is to blame permissiveness. The better question is why illegal construction is so universal.

Floor Area Ratio – the permitted ratio of built-up area to plot area – sits at 1.5 to 2 in most of Delhi. Ahmedabad, Jaipur, and Lucknow are no different. Singapore's dense zones reach 25; Los Angeles goes to 13; even Mumbai's commercial areas can go to 5. Pile on ground coverage limits, height caps, setbacks and parking mandates, and legitimate small hotels, PGs, and clinics become financially unviable.

Demand does not disappear. It moves into converted homes, extra floors, and basements. Around 40L Delhi residents live in unauthorised colonies. The story is not different in Surat, Indore or Patna. Informality is not an exception to India's planning system; it is one of its largest products.

The answer is legal categories for uses that already exist everywhere – budget guesthouses, PGs, neighbourhood commerce – with more buildable space exchanged for non-negotiable life-safety conditions: protected staircases, safe kitchens, clear exits, working alarms.

Second, fire safety must be built in, not bolted on through a separate no-objection certificate (NOC). A guesthouse in a narrow lane cannot meet the same checklist as a grade-A tower. When compliance feels impossible, the NOC becomes a transaction. Once paid, the incentive to meet even the basics collapses. Malviya Nagar was not a building with inadequate fire safety; it was a building with none, because the operator had already bought his way out of the system.

The structural answer is to abolish the fire NOC as a standalone instrument. Issuing it as a separate approval after building plan sanction, creates a second corruption queue, divorces fire-safety design from architectural design at the cheapest moment to integrate them, and gives fire departments a clerical workload that crowds out firefighting.

Fire safety compliance should instead be embedded in building plan approval: architects and licensed fire-safety engineers certify that designs meet proportionate, risk-calibrated standards – different for a five-storey hostel and a highrise commercial block. The fire department's role becomes standard-setting, third-party empanelment and enforcement, not paperwork.

Third, fire departments need private sector help. No state fire department – Delhi's, Mumbai's, Bengaluru's – has the staff to inspect its full building stock on any meaningful cycle. The answer is empanelled private fire safety auditors: authorised to inspect, certify, and upload reports, with the fire department auditing a sample and punishing fraud with blacklisting and criminal liability. Delhi's amended Fire Service Rules, notified on May 26, do exactly this. Other states should follow without waiting for their own tragedy. A national framework under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), building on the 2016 National Building Code, should set minimum standards for auditors, and push states to integrate third-party certification into building approval workflows.

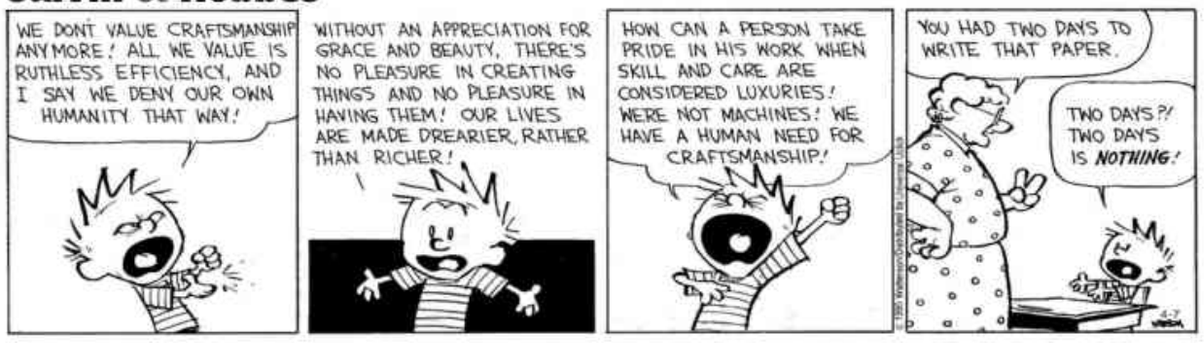
After every fire, the easiest demand is for toughness: seal more buildings, arrest more owners, order more surveys. Some of that is warranted. But toughness without reform only raises the price of illegality, and consumes the scarce official capacity that continuous, system-level safety would actually require. The harder task is to make legality possible, compliance affordable, and inspection continuous.

The Malviya Nagar fire is not an aberration. It was India's urban bargain catching fire: everyone knows the rules are unworkable, everyone knows they are being violated, and everyone hopes nothing terrible happens. That bargain plays out in Goa nightclubs, Gujarat warehouses, Mumbai basements, and Delhi guesthouses alike.

It must end. Build more legally, regulate more realistically, free fire departments from clerical NOC queues, and inspect more widely. That will matter more than another ritual crackdown.

The writer is Operating Partner, The Convergence Foundation

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacred*space*

The man dwelling on sense-objects develops attachment for them; from attachment springs up desire, and from desire (unfulfilled) ensues anger...From anger arises delusion; from delusion, confusion of memory; from confusion of memory, loss of reason; and from loss of reason, one goes to complete ruin.

Gita, 2.62-63

A Rebel Against The Absurdity Of Life

Jug Suraiya

Mother died today. Or, maybe, yesterday; i can't be sure." This is the compelling opening of Albert Camus's 1942 novel, *The Outsider*, and they represent the gauntlet that the writer flung in the face of what he saw as the essential absurdity of human existence.

Born in Algiers in 1913, Camus moved to Paris in the period between the devastation of World War I and that of World War II, which fomented what TS Eliot called the 'Death Wish' of Western civilisation.

Camus sought to relay the foundations of a new way of thought and living to replace the physical and psychological ruins of two watershed episodes that had laid waste both to the consolation of religious belief and the reassuring rationales of philosophy.

Camus saw himself as an architect of a moral affirmation in the face of an uncaring universe. The problem that lay before him was the ethical counterpart of the physics paradox: What happens when an irresistible force encounters an immovable object?

For Camus, the irresistible force was humanity's unquenchable thirst for meaning in an immovable scheme of things in which dissolution and death were the only inevitable outcomes; that is the absurdity of the human condition.

In *The Myth of Sisyphus*, published in the same year as *The Outsider*, Camus drew upon the Greek legend of Sisyphus who incurred the wrath of Zeus for twice cheating Thanatos, the god of death. The enraged Olympian condemned Sisyphus to eternal life in which he would roll a boulder up a hill, only to have it roll down again, forever and ever.

Camus portrayed Sisyphus as the archetypal "absurdist hero" who, instead of longing for oblivion through suicide or seeking salvation by divine intercession, through affirming his life of torment turned the agony of existence into the joy of sheer being.

Camus concludes: "The struggle itself towards the heights is enough to fill a man's heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy."

Camus rejected nihilism, the belief in believing nothing, as he did religious faith which mirage-like recedes into an unreachable horizon.

Camus's key to the solution of the absurdist paradox, the search for meaning in a meaningless world, was revolt, an unconditional commitment to permanent rebellion against injustice in all forms, whether political, ideological, or the blindness of random fate.

Meursault, the protagonist of *The Outsider*, rebels against the platitudes of social conventions, opiates that dull consciousness into the acquiescence of conformity.

Branded an outcast by society for his seeming lack of human sensibility, as evidenced by the opening lines of the narrative, Meursault is sentenced to death for the subsequent killing, more by happenstance than by design, of a man who had assaulted his companion.

With an equanimity worthy of Sisyphus, Meursault contemplates his execution with calm acceptance, "I was happy then, and i am happy now."

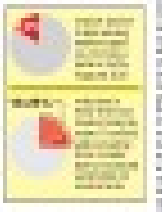
The Outsider of his own story, Camus affirmed his solidarity with all humanity by his reinterpretation of the self-centric Cartesian 'i think, therefore i am', as the universalism of 'i revolt, therefore *we* exist.'

What better way to authenticate one's own existence than by authentifying the existence of each and every one of us.

THE SPEAKING TREE

AI rewrites the rules of liberal arts education

As tech reshapes hiring, graduate preparation must go beyond curriculum reforms



CBT mode will curb vulnerability, restore confidence in the examination system

Data is transforming teachers' approach to personalised learning

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2026

The US continues to dominate in the race to digitalisation, with China a distant second

Followed by a group of countries, including India, as reflected by the CHIPS* scores of these countries. India has improved its digitalisation ranking by three places—rising from 8th in 2025 to 5th in 2026 alongside advanced economies, despite lower per capita income levels

Global Digital Ranking Top 10 Countries

	USA	China	Singapore	UK	India	UAE	France	Germany	Korea	Canada
Connect	15.3	17	14.5	12.4	11.9	16.8	14.5	11	11.9	11.8
Harness	14.2	13	7.6	7.8	9.2	5.7	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.2
Innovate	20.6	10.1	6.3	5.8	5.3	2.6	4.2	6.2	3.6	4
Protect & Sustain	14.3	11.5	9.9	12.2	10.5	9.5	9	9.9	10.6	9.8
CHIPS SCORE	64.4	51.6	38.2	38.2	**36.9**	34.6	33.7	33.5	32.7	31.7

*Note: The **Connect-Harness-Innovate-Protect-Sustain (CHIPS)** proposes a broad concept of digitalisation, capturing both the benefits and risks associated with digital technologies

Source: Icrier ProsusState of India's Digital Economy report 2026

DRIVERS OF INDIA'S RANKING IMPROVEMENT

- Connectivity, usage, and protection and sustainability
- Introduction of AI-related indicators, given its large pool of AI skilled workers
- Faster Y-o-Y gains in digital payments & technology use due to less digital saturation than most advanced economies

Friday's US mkt sell-off to weigh on D St sentiment

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Stock markets are expected to open weak on Monday on the back of the massive sell-off on Wall Street on Friday evening. As US stocks, especially the ones linked to the AI ecosystem, faced a huge sell-off, by late evening the Gift Nifty index, a proxy for Indian market for late trades, closed 1.5% lower. Eventually, Nasdaq closed 4.2% lower, S&P 500 ended 2.6% down, while Dow Jones was down 1.4% at close. Brokers and analysts on Dalal Street are expecting follow-up selling in the domestic market on Monday.

Traders expect Indian stocks to remain under pressure, mainly due to selling by foreign funds as they gauge the impact of Friday's sell-off in the US markets. On the other side, there is a small group of people who believe that since foreign funds have been selling India for the last several months, mainly due to the AI-led rally in some of the global markets in which India has lagged behind, Friday's sell-off may now prompt foreign funds to look at India as an investment destination again. The added booster could be the series of steps that the govt-RBI combine announced on Friday. According to V K Vijayakumar of Geojit Investments, if foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) are to invest in India, the AI trade, which has been the principal driver of FPI outflows away from India, should change. "There are early signs of this happening. The crash in Nasdaq by about 5% on June 5 is an indication that the AI bubble may burst."

So far in June, FPIs have net sold stocks worth nearly Rs 43,000 crore, eclipsing the whole of May's figure of almost Rs 33,000 crore. And in 2026 so far, the net outflow from stocks is now nearing Rs 3 lakh crore, a new yearly record.

'India to a/c for half of oil demand growth'

St Petersburg (Russia): India will account for about half of global oil demand growth and 15% of increase in global electricity consumption over next decade, making it one of the world's most important energy markets, Igor Sechin, chief executive of Russian oil producer Rosneft, said. Sechin said India's oil consumption is expected to rise 44% to nearly 8 million barrels per day by 2035. AGENCIES

RBI survey: Dismal sentiment among consumers, analysts

Driven By Lowered Growth Outlook, Inflation Fears, Weaker ₹

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A sharp deterioration in consumer sentiment alongside downgraded growth forecasts, rising inflation expectations and a weakening rupee has signalled a broad-based macroeconomic slowdown, according to the Reserve Bank's May 2026 survey rounds, with both households and professional forecasters turning more cautious over the near-term outlook.

Data from the May 2026 rounds of the Urban Consumer Confidence Survey and the 100th Survey of Professional Forecasters showed a clear shift towards pessimism over a two-month period from March to May, as inflationary pressures, currency depreciation and softer demand weighed on expectations.

Urban consumer sentiment weakened further, with the current situation index falling to 90.7 in May from 95.7 in March, marking the third consecutive decline and keeping the index firmly below the 100 threshold that separates optimism from pessimism. The future expectations index also slipped to 118.7 from 120.2, its lowest level since Sept 2023.

According to the survey covering 6,086 respondents across 19 cities, households reported worsening perceptions across key indicators. The net response on the general economic situation deteriorated to minus 16.5 from minus 8.6 in March, while one-year-ahead expectations declined to 19.5. Employment conditions also weakened, with current perceptions falling to minus 14.4 from minus 9.1, and future expectations easing to 21.8 from 25.2.

Price pressures remained acute. Around 91.6% of respondents said prices had increased over the past year. Income growth showed signs of stagnation, with the net response on current income falling to 0.9 from 3.0, while overall spending sentiment moderated to 74.0 from 78.4.

The decline in spending was driven by a pullback in discretionary consumption, as non-essential spending perceptions turned negative at minus 0.8 from 0.8 in March, even as essential spending remained relatively stable.

Professional forecasters mirrored this caution, lowering growth projections and revising macroeconomic assumptions in the 100th survey round. Real GDP growth for 2026-27 was revised down to 6.5% from 6.9%.

The most pronounced revision was the 60 basis point reduction in capital formation indicating that firms may slow expansion plans amid rising costs and uncertain demand.

3rd Straight Fall In Urban Consumer Sentiment

Macroeconomic Indicator (Median Forecast)	99th Round (March '26; in %)	100th Round (May '26; in %)	Net Revision / Magnitude
Real GDP Growth (2026-27)	6.9	6.5	-0.4
Real GDP Growth (2027-28)	7	6.9	-0.1
Real Private Consumption (PFCE) (2026-27)	7	6.8	-0.2
Real Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) (2026-27)	7.1	6.5	-0.6
Real GVA Growth (2026-27)	6.8	6.6	-0.2

Source: RBI

LIC to look at long-term investment instruments

New Delhi: State-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is engaging with key financial regulators, including RBI and Sebi, to expand the availability of long-term investment instruments as inflows into its annuity products keep on rising, CEO and MD R Doraiswamy said.

An annuity product converts an accumulated retirement corpus into a guaranteed, lifelong stream of income. When one invests a lump sum, LIC pays a regular pension for life, ensuring the savings aren't outlived.

"When the annuity markets are becoming more favoured by the policyholders, and more investments flow into annuities, we need to necessarily have long-term investments matching that kind of long-term liabilities. So we have been in touch with the (insurance) regulator as well as the regulators like Sebi, as well as RBI and requirements of LIC, particularly are being duly communicated to them," he said.

When annuity markets are becoming more favoured by policyholders, we need to have long-term investments matching that kind of liabilities, says LIC CEO and MD R Doraiswamy

He said the sector regulator Irdai has also been taking proactive steps in ensuring that the evolving needs of the market are also fully met by the insurance company.

"Given the fact that insurance companies generate long-term funds, they go on to meet the long-term financing requirements in terms of infrastructure needs and nation-building. The regulations are also getting aligned with the requirements. So, it is a win-win situation for both of us. We keep working together."

LIC has a substantial portfolio of annuity business, which is very long tailed with liabilities running into 30, 40, 50 years. So, the investment of funds is based on the underlying business and the underlying fund.

Asked if LIC could sustain a high net Value of New Business (VNB) margin of over 20% in FY27 as well, Doraiswamy said, the effort that the corporation is taking is to see VNB margin, or the gross VNB, as well as performance in almost all parameters, keep improving. AGENCIES

Tata-backed Small Animal Hospital sees board churn

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Mumbai: The board of the Small Animal Hospital, India's largest tertiary care veterinary facility and a cherished project of the late Ratan Tata, has been reconstituted following the exit of his close confidant Mehli Mistry, as the internal conflict engulfing Tata Trusts ripples into affiliated institutions.

Sanjay Ubale, a former MD of Tata Realty & Infrastructure, and Sheila Mukundan, a doctor and wife of Tata Chemicals MD R Mukundan, have joined the board. People familiar with the appointments said the hospital had sought individuals with an affinity for animals.

The facility, which cost Rs 165 crore to build and is losing about Rs 1.5 crore a month while operating at a fraction of its capacity, depends on sustained financial backing from its founding promoters — Sir Ratan Tata Trust and Sir Dorabji Tata Trust. It is unclear whether the Maharashtra charity commissioner's order freezing SRTT's ability to take material decisions has complicated the trust's capacity to provide ongoing support. The board of Tata Trusts, excluding SRTT, is meeting on Monday to discuss budgets, grant disbursals and other matters.

Mistry resigned from the hospital's board after his reappointment to both trusts was blocked. In his resignation letter, he said he would "prefer not to request funding from a trust with which he is no longer associated." His departure triggered further exits. Dr Anirudh Kohli, CEO of Breach Candy Hospital, also stepped down. Shantanu Naidu, Ratan Tata's former personal assistant, who had been involved with the hospital since its inception, resigned shortly after — with people saying he was nudged towards the exit. Naidu remains general manager at Tata Motors.

The remaining trustees are Leah Tata, daughter of Tata Trusts chairman Noel Tata, who was brought onto the board by Mistry; Mehernosh Kapadia, a former director of Indian Hotels Company; R R Shastri, a former legal executive of Tata Sons; and Siddharth Sharma, CEO of Trusts.

The Small Animal Hospital was born out of Ratan Tata's inability to find advanced veterinary care for his own injured dog.

Germany's G+D bets ₹1,100cr on India, eyes acquisition

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Mumbai: Giesecke+Devrient (G+D), the German security technology group spanning currency, digital payments and cybersecurity, is stepping up its India play with fresh investments of Rs 1,100 crore in 2026, localisation plans and a sharper focus on digital infrastructure, as it bets on the country's dual-track growth in cash usage and digital adoption. The company is also looking at acquisition opportunities among fintech and digital security companies in India

Ralf Wintergerst, group CEO and chairman of the management board of G+D, said

the company is increasing investments in shared services, IT, and R&D in India, positioning the country not only as a key market but also as a global hub for innovation and delivery.

The company, which has historically been associated with banknote printing and currency management, has over the years expanded into electronic payments, digital identity and cybersecurity, creating what it describes as three equal pillars: currency technology, financial platforms and digital security. India features prominently across all three.

In currency, G+D has had a long-standing association with the RBI, including work linked to the clean note policy and broader currency management systems. Even as digital payments surge, Wintergerst underscored that cash remains resilient, pointing to what he termed the "cash paradox," where "digital payments grow, but cash does not disappear." He added that physical currency continues to play a critical role as a fallback and in segments less digitally integrated.

TOI IN THE CLASSROOM

Decoding Investing In Balanced Advantage Funds

Attractive valuations of large cap stocks and high yields from bond funds are making several wealth managers bullish on balanced advantage funds, which look suitable to first time investors who want low volatility, as these schemes provide a balanced allocation between equity and debt

Invesco Mutual Fund

An investor education and awareness initiative

For Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines along with the documentary requirements and procedure for change of address, phone number, bank details, etc., please visit the Education and Guidance section on www.invescomutualfund.com. Investor should deal with only SEBI registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified under "Intermediaries/Market Infrastructure Institutions" on https://www.sebi.gov.in/index.html. For any grievance / complaint, please call us on 1800-209-0007 or write to us at mfservices@invescoindia.com. Alternatively, complaints can be registered on the SEBI SCORES Portal at https://scores.sebi.gov.in

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

What are Balanced Advantage Funds (BAFs)?
Balanced advantage funds (BAFs) are mutual fund schemes that invest in equity and debt. The percentage allocation to equity may vary between 30% and 80% depending on market conditions and valuation. Typically, when market valuations are high, allocation to debt increases. When valuations become cheap, equity allocation increases. The strategy helps investors in managing market risks.

What Is The Number Of Investors In BAF Category?
There are 36 schemes in the balanced advantage fund category that manage assets worth ₹2.5 lakh crore as of April 30, 2026.

Where Do BAFs Allocate Money?
A big component of equity portion is allocated to large cap stocks with only a small component in mid cap and small cap stocks. The lower income fund is allocated to a mix of higher quality bonds and government securities, with borrowers risk limited to AAA-rated borrowers.

What Asset Allocation Model Is Used By BAFs?
Fund houses use in-house models developed by research teams to decide the percentage allocation to equity and debt. Most fund houses use a pro cyclical approach which buys more equity when it seems cheaper valuations and exits when valuations are high.

Who May Consider Balanced Advantage Funds?
First time investors, typically who do not want higher volatility similar to equity investments,also have stable returns can consider balanced advantage funds. Investors moving money from fixed deposits to mutual funds and looking to earn little more than fixed deposits with higher tax efficiency can also consider investing in such funds.

How Are These Schemes Taxed?
These funds are structured in such a way that they are taxed as equity funds for investors.

When units are held for more than one year, gains are taxed at 12.5% long term capital gains tax. For a holding period of less than one year, gains are taxed at 20% short term capital gains tax.

— PRASHANT MAHESH

Aviation min initiates study on financially stressed airlines

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New Delhi: The ongoing West Asia conflict could pave the way for reforms to have financially viable airlines and a sustainable aviation sector in the country.

The aviation ministry has "initiated a study on financially stressed airlines in India to assess structural challenges and identify measures to improve sector resilience." It has asked airlines and other stakeholders to suggest reforms in policy, regulatory affairs, operations, contracts, procurement-related and other areas, and also provide the reasons for their suggestions along with the impact of the same.

Govt plans to push for these reforms to "help mitigate financial distress and support the sustainable growth of the airline sector in India."

"Aviation turbine fuel should be brought under GST at 5% so it's full recoverable against output GST. There is a need to remove GST on international flights.

There should be a single 5% GST slab for air tickets (not separate for business class). Govt must consider reverse bidding of airports on the basis of lowest airport charges for airlines and consumer to make travel affordable as opposed to the current practice of seeking highest revenue share bid per passenger. There should be price surveillance on monopoly routes (routes with less than two players)," said a senior airline official.

TO ASSESS CHALLENGES

Another top official said: "Apart from the mandatory ATF under GST, import duty on engineering spares and parts needs reforms. Airport charges need to be reviewed as if they keep rising, the cost of air travel will only increase. The readiness of airports to park the hundreds of aircraft Air India group, IndiGo, Akasa and other carriers will get over next few years has to be reviewed minutely.

Flying training and maintenance training organisations need to be ramped up in both quantity and quality in India given the aircraft orders of Indian carriers."

TaMo to gain from scrappage push

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Chennai: With a network of 11 registered vehicle scrapping facilities (RVSFs) across 10 states, excluding the southern region, and the capacity to dismantle more than 1.9 lakh vehicles annually, Tata Motors stands to benefit from the Centre's push to retire ageing commercial vehicles as India intensifies efforts to curb vehicular pollution.

Last week, the Union cabinet approved a Rs 9,585-crore two-year scheme to replace ageing trucks and buses in the Delhi-NCR region, a move expected to boost vehicle scrappage activity and demand for cleaner vehicles.

For Tata Motors, which operates its scrappage facilities under the Re.Wi.Re (Recycle with Respect) initiative, the policy could provide a strong tailwind. Several of the company's facilities are located in Delhi-NCR, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, positioning it to benefit from a potential increase in scrapping volumes as vehicle owners seek access to the formal recycling ecosystem and incentives under the programme. The company commands more than 50% market share in the medium and heavy truck segment across these four markets, and is also steadily expanding its RVSF network.

Amazon ramps up q-comm with aggressive expansion

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Bengaluru: Amazon is accelerating its quick-commerce push in India, planning to expand Amazon Now from 12 cities to 100 cities and build 1,000 micro-fulfilment centres in the coming months. The expansion marks a significant scale-up for the ecommerce giant in a market dominated by Blinkit, Zepto and Instamart.

The e-commerce giant is launching three to four stores every day and is banking on its Prime subscriber base, logistics network and wide product selection to grow the business. "We are launching three to four stores every day," Amazon India country manager Samir Kumar told TOI. "We have a very aggressive plan and are really happy with where we are with Amazon Now." The push comes as Amazon marks 13 years in India, during which it has invested $40 billion in the country. The company has committed an additional $35 billion over the next five years across ecommerce, cloud infrastructure, logistics and seller enablement.

"For sellers, we have enabled $20 billion in exports and we're going to get to $80 billion in exports by 2030. We have also created over two million jobs in India and plan to add another one million in the next five years," Kumar said. Amazon entered quick commerce later than rivals, but Kumar said the company is beginning to see strong traction. Prime customers are shopping on Amazon Now three times more frequently than before, while the business has been growing about 25% month-on-month over the past several months.

> We have a very aggressive plan and are really happy with where we are with Amazon Now...For sellers, we have enabled $20 billion in exports and we're going to get to $80 billion in exports by 2030. We have also created over two million jobs in India and plan to add another one million in the next five years
>
> **Samir Kumar** | COUNTRY MANAGER, AMAZON INDIA

The company, however, still trails the market leaders on scale. As **TOI** reported earlier, a UBS note based on channel checks for the December quarter of FY26 estimated Amazon Now's daily order volumes at 300,000-400,000 across about 450 dark stores. That translates to roughly 700-900 orders per store per day, compared with around 1,400 for Blinkit and 1,034 for Swiggy Instamart during the same period.

Unlike rivals that are increasingly expanding into electronics, appliances and other higher-value categories, Amazon believes its key differentiator will be the breadth of its assortment.

"We want to carry the largest assortment in minutes delivery for customers anywhere in India," Kumar said. "Our experience in managing large catalogues and inventory systems gives us an advantage as we scale." The company is also witnessing a shift in customer behaviour. While grocery and perishables continue to drive demand, purchases in home, kitchen and other non-grocery categories are increasing, lifting average order values.

Amazon's quick-commerce expansion is also tied to growing demand beyond major metropolitan markets. According to Kumar, 70% of new Prime customers are now coming from tier-2 and tier-3 cities, highlighting the next phase of ecommerce growth in India. To support the expansion, Amazon has built a dedicated Amazon Now team of about 100 employees operating with what Kumar described as a startup mindset. The unit has developed technology and operational systems that allow the company to rapidly roll out stores and expand operations. Kumar said innovations developed by the India team have already been adopted by Amazon's quick-commerce operations in markets including the US, UK, Japan and Brazil.

While quick commerce remains a highly competitive and capital-intensive segment, Kumar said Amazon is focused on building a sustainable business rather than pursuing growth at any cost.

"It's not just about growth, it's also about profitability," he said, adding that several of the company's earliest stores are already meeting internal benchmarks on order density, delivery efficiency and basket sizes.

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TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2026

THE SOLE MEANING OF LIFE IS TO SERVE HUMANITY
— LEO TOLSTOY

DUA LIPA-CALLUM TURNER'S $1.7M WEDDING EVENT IN ITALY TOWN SPARKS PROTESTS, COUPLE OFFERS COMPENSATION

MATT DAMON REVEALS NOLAN'S 'THE ODYSSEY' PUSHED HIM TO HIS LIMITS: 'BY FAR THE HARDEST MOVIE I'VE EVER MADE'

Pentagon has raised threat of Israeli spying to critical: Report

Israel Believed To Have Tried To Eavesdrop On US-Iran Talks

Washington: The Pentagon has raised its counterintelligence threat level for Israel to its highest level, US media reported on Saturday. The Pentagon's Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) said Israel's "ability to conduct human espionage and technical collection is at a 'critical level'," NBC News said, citing US officials.

The move came after concerns that Israel had been attempting to spy on top US officials to get information on "the Trump administration's internal deliberations and decision-making on the conflicts in the Middle East," the American network said. The New York Times cited reports of Israeli efforts to eavesdrop on senior officials, including President Donald Trump's top negotiator, Steve Witkoff, and the Pentagon's top policy official, Elbridge Colby.

NYT report said that Israel and the US have long known, and tolerated, that each was spying on the other. But an intensified Israeli effort to learn about US positions in talks with Iran has crossed a line, according to some American officials. The reports come at an especially sensitive time. Israel and the US have been fighting the war against Iran together, and have never had such close military coordination as they do now. The US military is sharing tactical and operational information with its Israeli counterparts. But senior American officials said that Israel is looking for insights into Trump's strategy on the peace talks. The new warning could potentially complicate efforts to further integrate military war planning between US Central Command and Israel.

The US and Israel launched joint strikes on Iran on Feb 28. Since then, Trump and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's relationship appears to be under strain. AGENCIES

Reuters

Vessels are anchored in the Strait of Hormuz as seen from Oman

Pak min in Tehran, US downs Iranian drones

Pakistan's interior minister Mohsin Naqv was in Tehran on Sunday in a fresh bid to restart negotiations between Iran and the US, as the American military said it shot down two more Iranian drones over the Strait of Hormuz that threatened international maritime traffic. Naqvi is in Tehran to deliver a message to Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei from Pakistan's army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, according to Iranian state-run IRNA news agency. Naqvi met with Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni late Saturday, and held talks Sunday morning with foreign minister Abbas Araghchi, according to official Iranian media. There were no details on the contents of the message. AP

Won't unfreeze assets of Iran before peace deal done: Trump

New Jersey: US President Donald Trump said in an interview with NBC News' "Meet the Press" that he would not unfreeze Iranian assets or lift any sanctions before a peace deal is reached. Trump said he would consider those steps after an agreement is done. "Comes after," he said. "Yeah. If they behave, if they do a good job, we start talking. Yeah."

Trump also said that he was not demanding that Lebanon be a part of a short-term deal with Tehran. "I think they'd like to see it, but I'm not demanding," Trump said in the interview recorded on Friday. "We're very close to a deal, or I'm going to blow the hell out of them," Trump told NBC News. Trump also said he would be willing to speak with Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, who has not been seen in public since being wounded in US strikes. "I don't want to say whether or not I know where he is, but there's a good probability that I do," Trump said. REUTERS

Iran must inform IAEA fate of its bombed N-sites: US draft resolution

Paris/Vienna: The US is lobbying other countries on the UN nuclear watchdog's board of governors to back a draft resolution demanding that Iran tell the agency what happened to its bombed nuclear sites and the enriched uranium stored at these locations. The US-drafted text, seen by Reuters on Sunday and circulated ahead of this week's quarterly meeting of the 35-nation board, risks complicating talks between Washington and Tehran.

The US draft says Iran must "provide the Agency with precise information on nuclear material accountancy and safeguarded nuclear facilities in Iran" and grant "all access it requires to verify this information." Both steps are described as "essential and urgent" and must be taken "without delay". The text stops short of referring Iran to the UN security council, a move some diplomats had said was under consideration. While circulating a draft does not guarantee it will be submitted to the board, which would then vote on it, it signals an intention to do so. Current US-Iran talks aim to extend ceasefire and pave the way for broader negotiations including nuclear programme. REUTERS

Opec+ approves fourth oil output quota hike since Hormuz closure

London: Opec+ agreed on Sunday a fourth increase in its oil output targets in as many months, even though the US war with Iran is still preventing several of the group's members from pumping more.

On Sunday, the seven members decided to increase targets by 188,000 bpd from July, Opec said in a statement. This is the same as the June hike, which was adjusted down from monthly increases of 206,000 bpd in May and April to take into account the UAE exit.

"An Opec+ production increase means very little while the Strait of Hormuz remains closed," said Jorge Leon, an analyst at Rystad. "When the strait reopens, the market could move very quickly from fear of shortage to fear of surplus." On Friday, oil prices fell to $93 a barrel as traders gained confidence that renewed conflict between the US and Iran was growing less likely. REUTERS

Indian shot dead after delivering pizza to vacant apartment in US

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: A 28-year-old Indian student from Telangana pursuing an MBA was shot dead in North Philadelphia after being lured to what investigators believe was a fake pizza delivery order. The killing has sent shockwaves through the Indian community in the US amid concerns about the safety of immigrant workers and foreign students at a time of debates in America about race, ethnicity, and immigration.

The victim, Anshul Kuncha, was fatally shot in the back of his head shortly on midnight Friday after delivering pizzas to a unit at the Raymond Rosen Homes housing complex on Edgley Street that police later determined was vacant. Authorities say they have recovered surveillance video from the area and traced a phone number used to place the order, which is now a key focus of the investigation. No arrests have been announced.

Kuncha, originally from Gundlapochampally in Telangana's Medchal-Malkajgiri district, had lived in the US for several years. According to family members, he was pursuing an MBA at Temple University — some local reports said Drexel University, which is also in the Philly area — while also working to support himself. Reports indicate he worked part-time delivering pizzas on weekends in addition to holding other employment. His family believes the delivery was not a random robbery but a carefully planned ambush.

"It was a trap," his sister Tanvi told Indian media outlets, saying the vacant address and circumstances suggested the perpetrators intended to lure him to the location. Family members have noted that nothing appears to have been stolen, fuelling questions about motive. Local police said even the pizzas delivered had not been touched.

The killing has triggered anxiety among people of Indian origin in the Philadelphia region and beyond. On social media and community forums, many have questioned whether Kuncha may have been targeted because he was an immigrant. Others point to the absence of an apparent robbery motive as reason for concern. Philadelphia police have not publicly identified a motive and have not classified the case as a hate crime.

North Philadelphia is considered a high-crime area. In 2021, housing and urban development awarded a grant to the Philadelphia Housing Association to install an expansive security camera monitoring system specifically to deter crime and track active incidents after Raymond Rosen was designated a primary site for the Violence Prevention Support Services initiative.

The Indian consulate in New York said it is working with authorities and providing assistance to Kuncha's family amid their appeals to expedite the return of his body.

The case comes amid heightened concern within the Indian diaspora over a series of violent incidents involving Indian nationals in the US during the past two years. Several Indian-origin workers employed at convenience stores, motels, gas stations, liquor stores, and delivery services — occupations historically common among Indian immigrants and students – have been killed during robberies or shootings in different parts of the country. These jobs often involve late-night work and elevated robbery risks.

While many of those crimes were investigated as robberies rather than bias-motivated attacks, the repeated incidents have contributed to a perception among some immigrants that they are increasingly vulnerable. Civil rights experts caution against drawing conclusions before investigators establish motive. At the same time, advocacy groups say immigrants and visible minorities often feel disproportionately exposed to harassment and violence amid growing accounts of xenophobia in some states.

'Delivered pizzas to repay loan, had no enemies'

Family members of 28-year-old Hyderabad native Anshul Kuncha, who was shot dead in Philadelphia, said Sunday their immediate priority is to bring his body home and ensure those responsible are punished, reports **Manvi Vyas**. "Just give us our brother back. That's all I want," his sister Tanvi Kuncha said, urging the Centre and Telangana govt to expedite repatriation of his mortal remains. Anshul, who grew up in Gundlapochampally on Hyderabad's outskirts, had completed BTech before moving to US about four years ago for higher studies. He worked for a Japanese company and delivered pizzas to repay his education loan, relatives said. "Anshul had no enemies. He was working for an MNC and had been doing part-time deliveries for the past six months," Tanvi said.

Israeli military strikes Hezb HQ in Beirut

Beirut/Jerusalem: The Israeli military has struck Hezbollah infrastructure in the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital Beirut, known as Dahiyeh, the first strike on the militant group's stronghold since an April 16 ceasefire was brokered. The ceasefire has not halted the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, with Israel saying it is working to dismantle Hezbollah's infrastructure on its borders.

Hezbollah has rejected proposals linking a ceasefire to its disarmament, saying Israel must first halt its attacks and withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon.

In a joint statement with his defence minister, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said the strike on Dahiyeh was ordered in response to Hezbollah firing toward Israeli territory.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The military said earlier it had intercepted two projectiles that crossed into Israeli territory from Lebanon, after sirens sounded in the areas of Yiftah and Ramot Naftali. Hezbollah has not claimed responsibility for the launches.

Israel's military also issued an evacuation warning to the residents of the southern Lebanese city of Tyre and its surrounding areas on Sunday ahead of possible strikes. Iran has made a ceasefire in Lebanon between its close ally and Israel a condition for any peace deal with the US.

A senior US official said "we were not surprised" by the Israeli attack in Beirut. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, would not say if the US had been given a heads-up on this specific strike, but stressed that Netanyahu has for some time said Israel would act to counter or retaliate against any Hezbollah attacks or attempted attacks on Israel.

Netanyahu, who faces elections later this year, wants to press ahead with Israel's offensive until he believes Hezbollah no longer poses a threat.

US President Trump, in an interview taped Friday and aired Sunday with NBC's "Meet the Press," said "I'd like to see Lebanon have a better life. I'd like to see a more surgical attack on Hezbollah. I think it should be more surgical." Trump added that he is "not demanding" that Lebanon be part of the short-term deal to extend the ceasefire in Iran war.

There was no immediate formal response from Tehran to Sunday's Israeli strikes on the southern outskirts of Beirut, but influential hardline Iranian lawmaker Ebrahim Rezaei posted on X that Iran would deliver a "decisive and painful response". "Look at the sky of the occupied territories tonight," wrote Rezaei, who serves as the spokesperson for parliament's national security committee. AGENCIES

REUTERS

A damaged building following an Israeli strike in Beirut on Sunday

Jamaat's ally NCP calls B'desh HM's border killing comments 'humiliating'

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: Islamist hardliner Jamaat's ally NCP on Sunday termed as "deeply objectionable and humiliating" Bangladesh home minister Salahuddin Ahmed's statement that it was incorrect to label deaths resulting from border crimes or illegal trespass as "border killings".

This statement, even though there has been hostilities along the border, by the minister and BNP standing committee member is a matter of "profound national shame", NCP convener and opposition's chief whip in Parliament Nahid Islam said, a day ahead of the director general-level talks between Border Guard Bangladesh and Border Security Force in New Delhi

He said Salahuddin has neither withdrawn nor clarified his remarks. Moreover, no condemnation or disapproval has come from govt regarding such statements.

NCP targeted the minister over his June 2 remarks that "if a foreign force enters our border or the zero line and carries out a killing, that can be termed a border killing. But if someone is involved in a crime within our territory or theirs, or illegally trespasses into another country, how their border force addresses it depends on their domestic laws. It would not be correct to call that a border killing."

Iran court junks filmmaker appeal against jail sentence

Paris: An Iranian court has rejected an appeal against a one-year jail sentence by director Jafar Panahi, who is now reportedly back in his homeland after winning top prize at last year's Cannes film festival, his lawyer was quoted as saying Sunday.

AP/File

Director Jafar Panahi

A Tehran Revolutionary Court fully upheld the original Dec verdict of another court, although Panahi can still lodge a new appeal with a provincial court, lawyer Mostafa Nili told the website of Iranian daily Etemad. The ruling means that the original judgement of one year in prison and a two-year travel ban on charges of "propaganda" against Iran's clerical system still stands, the lawyer added.

Iran's ISNA news agency had said in May that Panahi had returned to Iran on March 30, shortly after the annual ceremony in Los Angeles. While abroad promoting the film, Panahi had expressed outrage over the Iranian authorities' crackdown in Jan on anti-govt protests, which according to rights groups left thousands dead.

Panahi has not posted on his Instagram account since Feb, nor himself confirmed that he has returned to Iran. The US-Israeli war against Iran was still ongoing when he reportedly went home. It was not clear if Panahi had attended the latest trial hearings under judge Iman Afshari, who is notorious for his tough verdicts. "It Was Just an Accident" is a politically charged movie, showing five Iranians confronting a man they believe tortured them in prison, a story inspired by Panahi's own previous time in detention. AFP

1.2M PEOPLE FLOOD MADRID STREETS TO SEE THE POPE

AFP

More than 1.2 million people filled the streets of Madrid on Sunday for a mass by Pope Leo XIV at which he called for a renewal of the Catholic faith in Spain. King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia joined throngs of devotees waving Spanish and Vatican flags in Cibeles Square for a service filled with religious symbolism. In his homily, Pope Leo said Spaniards should not look at religion as 'a museum of the past to be visited, but a school of faith from which to draw even today'. The mass comes on Day 2 of Pope Leo's seven-day visit to Spain. AFP

Wrong to blame immigration for teen's murder: UK dy PM

London: Britain's deputy prime minister said on Sunday that he told US vice president JD Vance he was wrong to blame immigration for the death of a university student who was handcuffed as he lay dying from a stab wound.

David Lammy, who is also the justice minister, said he challenged Vance in what he described as a "robust" phone call on Saturday. "We had an agreeable conversation because we have got a relationship, but I wanted to make him clear that I disagree with some of the facts that he was asserting and to present the facts to him," Lammy told Sky News.

The call came a day after Vance said in a post on social platform X that there should be "righteous anger" in response to the murder of Henry Nowak, 18, who died in Dec after being stabbed by Vickrum Digwa in the English city of Southampton. Digwa, who is Sikh, falsely claimed to police he was the victim of a racist assault by Nowak, who was white. When police officers arrived, they initially treated the wounded man as a suspect before noticing his injury and trying to resuscitate him. Vance appeared to blame the murder in part on "the mass invasion of migrants, many of whom despise the West and the people who love it."

Lammy said he wanted to "emphasize a number of things" to Vance, including that the killer was British and is now behind bars. "This has got nothing to do with mass migration," Lammy said. Digwa, 23, was convicted of murder for stabbing Nowak and sentenced this week to life in prison with a minimum 21-year term. The case has been seized on by anti-immigration activists and politicians in the UK. On Tuesday, police in Southampton were pelted with chairs, cans, rocks and flares after a demonstration over Nowak's death attended by far-right figures and others. REUTERS

DAILY PLANET

Reuters

People take part in a Colour Run event in Moscow on Sunday

Former wife of UAE royal out on bail in custody dispute

The ex-wife of a nephe w of Dubai's ruler has been released on bail, the emirate's public prosecution said, after she was held during a custody battle. Zeynab Javadli was detained after her former husband, Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum, accused her of abducting their three children. The prosecutors said in a statement on Saturday that the questioning was "in connection with an ongoing investigation into allegations that she abducted her children and refused to return them to their father, who was granted custody". Javadli, a former international gymnast from Azerbaijan, has made a series of Instagram posts, beginning in 2025, pleading for help and accusing her ex-husband of taking away her daughters. On Friday, the prosecutors said Javadli had been taken into custody over a complaint filed by her ex-husband that alleged the children were abducted by their mother during a court-approved visit to see her. At the time of Javadli's arrest, David Haigh, her UK-based human rights lawyer, said the children, the eldest of whom is nine, had lived with their mother "their entire lives". He said Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum "personally intervened" in 2022 to give her full custody, without providing evidence. The alleged abduction took place in Nov, he added, questioning why she was only arrested months later. A lawyer for Sheikh Saeed, a nephew of Dubai's ruler, said he was awarded custody of the three girls in 2022.

S Korea's prez orders probe into ballot shortage issue

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung said on Sunday that he called for a thorough probe into a ballot shortage that impacted recent local elections, adding that the prosecution and police would be involved in the investigation. "As one citizen and as the president responsible for the government, I express deep regret," he said in an X post. Local elections in the country last week were hit by a ballot shortage that prevented some eligible voters from casting their ballots. The head of the National Election Commission, an independent body that ran the voting, resigned after the incident, but thousands of people have been protesting outside a ballot counting site in Seoul to demand a re-run of local elections.

Dubai luxury hotels woo staycationers as Iran war drives tourists away

Dubai: Once reserved for wealthy travellers, Dubai's top-notch hotels have become almost exclusively reliant on residents, drawn in by dizzying staycation offers as war drives tourists away. On the Palm, an artificial island that has become synonymous with Dubai opulence, five-star hotels are busy on weekends and holidays once more, despite having been deserted by tourists.

The clientele is driven by hotels offering residents-only deals that have become a lifeline for Dubai's luxury tourism. "I had never been in a hotel on the Palm because the prices were crazy," said Fadi Iskandarani, a doctor in his sixties who just spent his first weekend at a luxury resort on the Palm. The Lebanese national, who has lived in Dubai for five years, decided to opt for a staycation after he found that a hotel had cut its rates by a factor of four (25%).

With 19.5 million yearly tourists, Dubai is among the region's top destinations and was long seen as a playground for the world's rich and famous. Its 827 hotels — including 173 five-star establishments — boasted an average occupancy rate of more than 80%.

AFP

Some hotels have temporarily closed for renovations as business slowed. Others have cut staff or salaries, particularly hotels in downtown Dubai

Since a shaky ceasefire came into effect on April 8 some tourists have trickled in, but hotels are mostly relying on local guests, said Michael Robinson, the general manager of the Anantara The Palm Dubai Resort. On Fridays and Saturdays, hotel occupancy sits between 70% and 90%, he said. Sunday through to Thursday, it has an average occupancy of around 20% to 30%. This new clientele has offered hotels a lifeline, allowing Anantara The Palm to remain "cash positive" without resorting to layoffs. But staycations are not enough on the long term. "Your staycation business is essentially one to two nights and that's it... Whereas previously, the international market, they might come for one week," Robinson said.

Should tourists stay away come July, when schools are closed and many families return home for the summer, "there won't be as many people wishing to do staycations", he said. Some hotels, including Burj Al Arab, have temporarily closed for renovations as business slowed. Others have cut staff or salaries, particularly hotels in downtown Dubai. AFP

GOAL RUSH

11 Jun 2026 – 19 Jul 2026

TIMES SPORT | THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2026

"IT'S JUST INDESCRIBABLY PAINFUL BEING FORCED TO MISS THE BIGGEST TOURNAMENT OF ALL. I'VE DONE EVERYTHING TO BE FIT FOR THE WORLD CUP. UNFORTUNATELY INJURIES OFTEN COME AT THE UNLUCKIEST TIME."

—LENNART KARL
GERMANY MIDFIELDER

THE MEN WHO MATTER

From Ancelotti's calm authority to Bielsa's relentless intensity, four master tacticians could define the chase

Pix: Getty Images, AP

DIDIER DESCHAMPS FRANCE

MARCELO BIELSA URUGUAY

LIONEL SCALONI ARGENTINA

CARLO ANCELOTTI BRAZIL

Anil.Dias@timesofindia.com

The 2026 FIFA World Cup will to be remembered for many things. Yet when the competition kicks off across the United States, Canada and Mexico, four men on the touchline could end up shaping the story more than any superstar player.

These days, football is often all about the star players, but coaches are having a bigger impact than ever. And there aren't many managers better at that than Brazil's Carlo Ancelotti, France's Didier Deschamps, Argentina's Lionel Scaloni and Uruguay's Marcelo Bielsa.

Each has a different approach to football. All face big expectations, and their influence could be remembered long after the tournament ends. For Brazil, the appointment of Carlo Ancelotti was both revolutionary and desperate.

Since lifting their fifth crown in Yokohama in 2002, Brazil have repeatedly arrived as favourites only to depart amid disappointment. The scars of the 7-1 defeat to Germany in 2014 still linger.

That explains why the Brazilian Football Confederation turned to the most decorated club coach of his generation. The Italian has never really been known as a tactical revolutionary. What sets him apart is the way he handles big personalities and keeps star-studded squads united. That could be exactly what Brazil need as they try to blend experienced names like Neymar and Casemiro with exciting young talents such as Endrick. Ancelotti has also shown he is willing to make tough decisions.

If Brazil finally end their 24-year wait for World Cup glory, Ancelotti would become the foreign coach who restored the game's most iconic national team to the summit.

Standing in his way could be the man who has quietly put together one of the most impressive international coaching runs of the modern era.

For nearly 14 years, Didier Deschamps has been the steady hand behind France's success, guiding the team through multiple generations. He guided France to World Cup glory in 2018, reached another final in 2022 and has consistently kept Les Bleus among football's elite.

He has got a fabulous squad to work with, and their depth is unbelievable. Deschamps can assemble two starting XIs packed with elite talent. Kylian Mbappe remains the headline act, but their depth stretches across every position. If Deschamps lifts the trophy again, he would join the small group of coaches with multiple World Cup titles and further cement his place among the greatest international managers of his era.

Then there is the defending champion. When Lionel Scaloni was appointed Argentina coach in 2018, the decision was widely questioned. He lacked significant managerial experience and inherited a fractured national team still reeling from World Cup disappointment.

Eight years later, he has transformed Argentina into one of football's great modern success stories.

Scaloni's success comes from keeping things simple. He brought the squad together, eased the pressure and created a team-first mentality. Even with Lionel Messi at the centre of attention, Argentina was never about one superstar but about the entire team. He ended Argentina's long wait for major silverware by winning the Copa America before capturing the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

2026 will be different, though.

Argentina are no longer outsiders. They are champions defending their crown. Opponents will now prepare specifically for them. Expectations are higher and the sentiment surrounding Messi's likely final World Cup appearance only intensifies the pressure. Scaloni has repeatedly shown an ability to adapt and his Argentina side will need that.

If Scaloni represents calm, then Uruguay's Bielsa embodies controlled chaos. Few coaches in football history inspire as much admiration from fellow managers. Pep Guardiola has described him as the best coach in the world. Yet the Argentine's career has always been defined by a curious contradiction. He is revered as a tactical visionary, but major trophies remain relatively scarce.

That is precisely why the 2026 World Cup feels so significant.

Bielsa has transformed Uruguay into one of South America's most exciting teams. Players such as Federico Valverde, Darwin Nunez and Ronald Araujo have performed well under Bielsa.

The concern, as always, is whether that intensity can be sustained through the emotional and physical demands of a month-long tournament. But if Bielsa finally delivers football's biggest prize, it would rank among the sport's most romantic stories.The World Cup often belongs to players. Pele, Maradona, Zidane and Messi became immortal because of what they did on football's grandest stage. Yet as the quadrennial extravaganza approaches, the battle on the touchline may prove just as compelling.

TIME TO ASK APOLLO

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KNOW GROUP F

Country	Best finish	Path to finals
Netherlands	Runners-up (1974, 1978, 2010)	(UEFA) Winner of Group G
Japan	Round of 16 (2002, 2010, 2018, 2022)	(AFC) Winner of 3rd Round Group C
Sweden	Runners-up (1958)	(UEFA) Playoffs via Nations League route
Tunisia	Group stage (7 times)	(CAF) Winner of Group H

WHEN SPAIN MADE A FRUIT AN INTERNATIONAL STAR!

BACK PASS

Image: AI

Spain's World Cup mascot in 1982, Naranjito, was an orange. Not a lion, eagle, bear or child—an orange. The smiling citrus fruit wore the Spanish national team's kit and became one of the most eccentric mascots in sporting history. Many traditionalists hated it when unveiled, arguing that a piece of fruit could not represent football. Yet Naranjito became hugely popular and remains one of the most recognisable World Cup mascots ever created. Only the World Cup could make an orange into an international celebrity.

'SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE LAST WEEK': IRANIAN TEAM ARRIVES IN TIJUANA

Tijuana: Iran's World Cup squad landed in Mexico on Sunday under the shadow of a bitter diplomatic row, after the United States - in open military conflict with Tehran - refused to issue visas for some team support staff.

Iran coach Amir Ghalenoei complained on arrival at Tijuana airport that "we should have been here last week because a 12-hour time difference needs two weeks of adjusting." He added: "Usually in these tournaments, before technical matters, ethical and human considerations must be respected - which I think for us it was not the case."

Ghalenoei thanked FIFA for its efforts to help secure entry, but said "we are upset about this behaviour."

Team captain Ehsan Hajsafi said he wanted to convey his grievance to FIFA about the delay in getting US visas. "Why so late?" he demanded. Ireza Jahanbakhsh, said the team's condition was "positive". AFP

Meet Egypt stars named after icons

TREZEGUET, ZICO AND DUNGA: Their real names (from left) are Mahmoud Hassan, Abdel-Raouf and Nabil Emad

Cairo: France's David Trezeguet and Brazil's Zico and Dunga all left their mark on World Cup history decades ago. In 2026, their names will return to football's biggest stage but this time on the backs of Egyptian players.

Several Egypt squad members will carry monikers drawn from some of the game's most iconic figures. One standout is Mahmoud Hassan, popularly called 'Trezeguet,' who plays for Egyptian giants Al Ahly.

His nickname was given by youth coach Badr Ragab, who saw in Hassan's style and aerial prowess shades of the French striker who helped France lift the 1998 World Cup. "From his first days... I noticed (Hassan's) resemblance to Trezeguet, both in appearance and playing style," Ragab said.

Brazil's influence is also visible within the Egyptian squad. Mostafa Abdel-Raouf, a midfielder for Pyramids FC, has been known as "Little Zico" since his early days in the game, a reference to one of Brazil's most gifted playmakers. Unlike Hassan's nickname, the origin was more personal than tactical. Abdel-Raouf's older brother, who also played football, was nicknamed Zico because his full name included "Zaki".

"When Mostafa started playing, coaches called him 'little Zico' because he was my younger brother," he said.

The original Zico made 71 appearances for Brazil and played in three World Cups before retiring in 1994.

Egypt's 29-year-old Zico is only just beginning his international journey.

Another Brazilian-inspired nickname belongs to Nabil Emad, known as 'Dunga', after the midfielder who captained Brazil to World Cup glory in 1994. "I admired the Brazilian player, and Nabil played in the same position with a very similar style," said Wael Habib, a former official at Al Assiouty, now Pyramids FC, who signed him in 2014.

In Egypt, such naming traditions are far from unusual. Ragab handed out other European-inspired names in his youth teams, including "Nedved" for ex-Al Ahly winger Karim Walid, after Czech legend Pavel Nedved. Al Ahly's Ahmed Ramadan is known as "Beckham", to former Zamalek player Youssef Ibrahim, whose nickname "Obama" set him apart beyond the pitch. AFP

AFP

ON THE SIDELINES: Lionel Messi in dug-out during Argentina's 2-0 friendly win against Honduras on Saturday. The striker sat out the match while managing muscle fatigue and hamstring strain

ERIKSEN 'CONSCIOUS' AFTER COLLAPSING ON FIELD AGAIN

Odense: Christian Eriksen is conscious after collapsing on the field again while playing for Denmark's national team.

TV images showed the 34-year-old Erikson clutching his chest with both hands in the 65th minute of Denmark's international friendly against Ukraine at Nature Energy Park in Odense. Erikson fell to the ground, surrounded by players. The match was later abandoned.

"Christian Eriksen is conscious and, under the circumstances, doing well," the Danish federation said. Eriksen collapsed because of a cardiac arrest during Denmark's opening Euro game in 2021 in Copenhagen. AP

BRAZIL, GERMANY AND ENGLAND WIN FRIENDLIES

Multi-champions Brazil and Germany all won their preparatory games for the World Cup on Saturday, although by small margins, with former champions England and hopefuls Portugal also securing victories.

The day saw big stars like Cristiano Ronaldo, Vini Jr and Mohamed Salah in action. REUTERS

ATALANTA'S EDERSON TAKES WESLEY'S PLACE IN BRAZIL SQUAD

New Jersey: Brazil's search for a reliable right back took another painful twist on Sunday when Wesley was dropped from their World Cup squad after suffering a left thigh muscle injury, with Atalanta midfielder Ederson called up in his place.

The AS Roma defender, the only specialist right back in Carlo Ancelotti's 26-man squad, was injured during Saturday's 2-1 friendly win over Egypt in Cleveland, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said.

Ancelotti must now patch up the flank with versatile centrebacks Danilo and Ibanez as Brazil prepare for their opener against Morocco on Saturday. "The scan revealed a muscle injury to the adductor muscle in his left thigh," the CBF said in a statement. "Wesley is much loved and will always be considered part of this team." REUTERS

Yamal carries Spain on his young shoulders

Madrid: Despite being only 18 years old, Lamine Yamal will be carrying the responsibility of a seasoned veteran when Spain enters the World Cup seeking its second world title.

The prodigy has been La Roja's top star for the past few years, attracting the spotlight on and off the field.

He's earned accolades helping Spain and Barcelona thrive. He has made headlines by waving a Palestinian flag during a title celebration. He's been criticized after hiring people with dwarfism as entertainers for his lavish 18th birthday party.

And he's prompted nationwide concern by getting injured just weeks before soccer's showcase event, putting his participation in the tournament in doubt.

Yamal will make it to the World Cup after all — the first for the teenager considered by many the heir apparent to the one-and-only Lionel Messi at Barcelona. Many expect him to break through once and for all at the international soccer scene by thriving in the tournament in North America. "The time has finally come," Yamal said in an interview with the Spanish soccer federation after Spain's World Cup squad was announced on May 25.

AP

PEN PAL: Lamine Yamal in Chattanooga

Spanish coach Luis de la Fuente showed no hesitation adding Yamal to the squad even though it wasn't guaranteed that the forward would be 100% fit early on after injuring his left hamstring with Barcelona in April. Yamal himself said he was scared of missing the World Cup.

De la Fuente last week said Yamal is likely to be ready to play from the start, but he also called for "prudence" about the expectations surrounding the young star. "He's still 18 years old," the coach told Movistar after announcing the squad. "He's already very mature as a player, and we can't even fathom his full potential right now, but we have to give him the necessary time. Especially now that he is coming off an injury. We're going to give him everything he needs to develop."

"In my mind, it's like I've been playing for 10 years, but actually it's only been three years, and four years ago I was playing in the neighbourhood's sports centre," Yamal said in an interview with the Spanish federation after the squad announcement. "To think about that, a kid like that is now going to play in a World Cup is something crazy." AP

HIGH SEASON
This season, Yamal led his club Barcelona in **goals — 16** along with Ferran Torres — and led the La Liga in **assists** and **dribbles**. He was chosen the **La Liga's best player**.

Pele's legacy shines on in his 'home' in Santos

Santos: As the FIFA World Cup approaches, the image of one of Brazil's most recognizable footballers lives on in Santos, the one-time home of Edson Arantes do Nascimento, far better known as Pelé.

Tourists like Mario Alvarez Gamino, a 67-year-old retired salesperson from Mexico, flock to Santos to see anything that connects the Brazilian port city to the man. The soccer legend's legacy is everywhere — in vibrant murals by street artist Eduardo Kobra, among the memorabilia of his beloved club and even on posters glued to local lampposts.

"His legacy is fundamental. His life will always be an example to follow," Álvarez said. "At the moment we have Cristiano Ronaldo but he lacks something that Pelé had, humility."

AP

LEGEND ALIVE AND WELL: Children at the Pele Museum in Santos

Pele, who died in 2022 at age 82, played at Santos Futebol Clube for most of his career, from 1956 to 1974. Santos is also home to the Pele Museum, where fans can learn more about Pelé's life and see various memorabilia, including jerseys and trophies.

"When you tell a foreigner you're from Santos, the first thing they say is 'Pelé'. That's why we at the museum have a great responsibility: to carry the name of Pelé and the city of Santos," said museum director Paulo Monteiro. "After his death, we now have a greater and more difficult mission, which is to keep his legacy active and alive."

Many of the more than 400,000 residents of Santos never had the chance to see Pelé in action, but they want the legacy to live on.

Among them is bar owner Anderson Albino. "As local business owners, we see how much international media comes here and how that draws huge numbers of visitors," Albino said. "For those of us from the city, it's a privilege that Pele played for us." AP

REMEMBER ME? Ronaldinho takes part in an exhibition match in Caracas

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Eng defeat NZ

Gus Atkinson's love-affair with Lord's continued Sunday as England overwhelmed New Zealand by 115 runs to win the first Test. New Zealand, set 254 to win, were dismissed for 138 before lunch on the fourth day in what was the 150th Test staged at Lord's -- the most at any ground. Surrey paceman Atkinson took 5-30 -- his fourth five-wicket innings haul in three Tests at Lord's -- as England went 1-0 up in a three-match series.

Brief scores: England: 140 & 226 bt **New Zealand: 113 & 138 (o/n 55/5) all out in 40.3 overs** (Glenn Phillips 44n.o; Gus Atkinson 5-30, Ollie Robinson 2-38, Josh Tongue 2-48).

Tamim is B'desh's youngest cricket chief: Ex-Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal became the country's youngest cricket chief on Sunday, weeks after he was appointed interim president and vowed to repair the sport's damaged reputation in the country. Tamim was elected after topping a board election with 73 votes from 75 councillors, and led a 16-candidate field competing for 12 director positions.

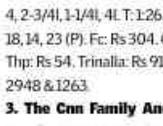
Duplantis suffers shock defeat: Olympic champion Armand Duplantis fell short of his bid for a world record at the Stockholm Diamond League on Sunday, suffering a surprise defeat as Australia's Kurtis Marschall clinched victory with a clearance of 5.90 metres on his third attempt. The defeat ended a run of 40 straight victories for the 26-year-old.

Biles shares health scare on social media: Gymnastics superstar Simone Biles revealed a recent health scare via an Instagram post on Saturday, revealing no details about the medical emergency she called one of the scariest experiences of her life. "I'm not one to normally share things like this because I value privacy in today's age, but almost dying wasn't on my bingo card earlier this week," Biles wrote in an Instagram story.

Kochhar stays in top-10: Karandeep Kochhar remained the best-placed Indian at the IGPL Bharath Classic despite slipping to tied 10th after a third-round 2-under 70 in challenging windy conditions in El Jadida, Morocco. The 27-year-old moved to 7-under but dropped from overnight tied fifth.

Animesh wins silver: National record holder Animesh Kujur finished second in the men's 200m with the fourth fastest time of career at the New Taipei City Athletics Open 2026 in Taipei City on Sunday. The 23-year-old Indian, whose national record stands at 20.32 seconds, clocked a solid 20.47seconds.

Former umpire Raju no more: Former international umpire V Vikram Raju, who



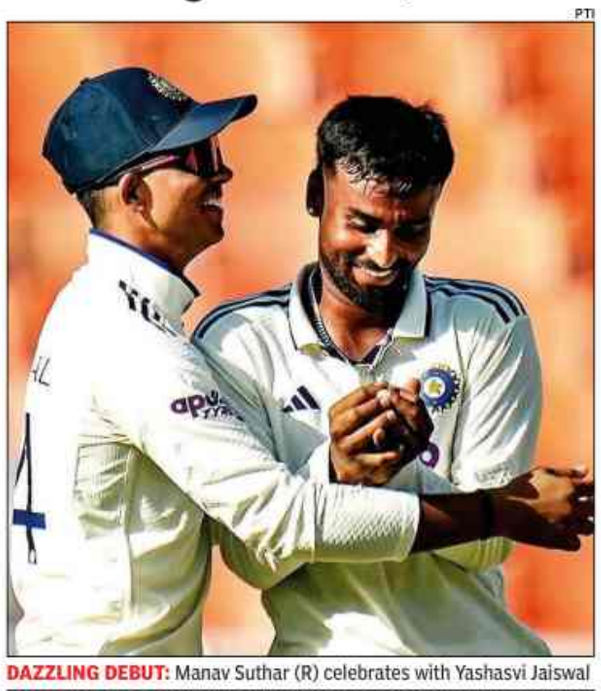
officiated in the historic tied Test between India and Australia at Chennai in 1986, died in Bengaluru on Sunday. He was 92. Raju umpired two Tests and five ODIs, besides standing in 42 first-class matches. But none of them remained in memory more than the tied Test between India and Australia played at the MA Chidambaram Stadium from Sept 18 to 22 roughly 40 years back. The Karnataka State Cricket Association mourned his demise.

New boy Suthar leaves a mark

Bowling Slower Through The Air, Left-Armer Takes 3-21

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

PTI



DAZZLING DEBUT: Manav Suthar (R) celebrates with Yashasvi Jaiswal

New Chandigarh: This was the first time since 2010 that India fielded a Test XI at home that didn't have either Ravichandran Ashwin or Ravindra Jadeja. Over the last two home seasons, the fear factor around the Indian spinners has come down significantly. Handing the India cap to left-arm spinner Manav Suthar in the one-off Test against Afghanistan here was a step towards resurrecting the reputation, and the first signs on Sunday were good.

After a spell of classical left-arm spin (3/21 in 15.5 overs) on Day Two to reduce the inexperienced Afghanis-

ONE-OFF TEST

tan batting to 113/5 at stumps, Suthar has the Indian cricket fraternity excited. He did have the cushion of Indian batters putting up 564/8 before captain Shubman Gill declared late in the second session. The pitch also slowed down, but it had started to turn just a bit. And the 23-year-old from Sri Ganganagar announced that he can be the man to take over from Jadeja in due course.

On the eve of the Test, head coach Gautam Gambhir suggested that the team management wanted to try a new left-arm spinner here who can be the fourth spinning option for India in the next series against Sri Lanka in Aug. Going by the evidence on Sunday afternoon, Suthar can be the right man for the job.

The southpaw was extremely accurate in his spell, and unlike Jadeja, he is slightly slower through the air. The guile, running in diagonally past the umpire to bowl around the wicket, reminded one of classical left-arm orthodox bowlers who are slowly going out of circulation. And the turn and zip off the slowish pitch had a lot to do with the revolutions that he imparted on the ball, with wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant forced to collect a few near his chest.

Kuldeep Yadav (0-29 off 7), probably, was still adjusting his line and length after six months of white-ball cricket. Washington Sundar, who bowled very rarely in the IPL, was used for only four overs on Sunday. Suthar, on the other hand, showed no sign of nerves and proved why he has been rated so highly in the Indian cricket circuit.

"Manav's been outstanding. Those of us who've seen him over the past few years know exactly what he brings to the table, especially in this format. He's got a great skill set and has worked really hard on it," Washington said after play on Sunday.

"It's the turn and the revs that he imparts on the ball that stand out. That's been his biggest strength over the years," he added before going on to explain Suthar's craft: "He has played a lot of red-ball cricket in the last couple of years and done really well, which has helped him understand this format better. One thing that's very noticeable is the amount of energy he puts into every delivery. His run-up, load-up, and release all reflect that effort. He gives everything into the ball, and that's something special to watch."

While Suthar made an impact in the final three hours, the second day moved at a snail's pace with Afghanistan pacers Saleem Safi and Azmatullah Shahidi bowling impeccable lines to strangle overnight batters Gill and Pant, who eventually fell for 125 and 81, respectively. Still, India had the runs on the board and now it's on Suthar & Co. to finish the Test match off over the next couple of days.

Brief scores: India (o/n 368/3) 564/8d in 127 overs (Shubman Gill 126, Rishabh Pant 81, Washington Sundar 52 n.o, Manav Suthar 28; Mohammad Saleem 6-140) vs **Afghanistan: 113/5 in 39.5 overs** (Rahmat Shah 43 batting; Prasidh Krishna 2-27, Manav Suthar 3-21).

Zverev finally wins it

THE TIMES OF INDIA AT ROLAND GARROS

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Getty Images

SEALED WITH A KISS: Zverev

After four hours and 16 minutes, Alexander Zverev collapsed onto the clay, sobbing into his palms. At 29, in his fourth Grand Slam final, he was finally a Major champion.

The second-seeded German, who had battled a cocktail of nerves and cramping alongside a spirited Italian opponent, Flavio Cobolli, triumphed 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-1 in the French Open final. In doing so, he became the first first-time Major champion since Jannik Sinner at the 2024 Australian Open.

Cobolli was all over the clay in the opening set. The

FRENCH OPEN

24-year-old Italian, who had never progressed beyond the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam, was broken in his opening service game. He virtually surrendered the set with a series of breaks.

When the world No.14 was preparing to serve for the first time in the second set, a fan shouted 'credi' which is 'believe' in Italian. When he held serve in the second game, it was the first time in the match that the two players had been level on the scoreboard. Then about an hour into the contest, Zverev faced his first break point of the afternoon in the seventh game. The German saved it in the opening exchange, prevailing in a lengthy rally. But in a game that featured two Zverev double faults, Cobolli eventually secured the break. It proved enough. The Italian held firm and served out the set in the 10th game.

Zverev, his hair tied in a man bun, had the first opportunity to break in the third set. Cobolli fell behind 15-40 in the fourth game, but responded well, saving the second breakpoint by following a second serve to the net. The 6-ft-6 German, however, remained dominant on serve, losing just one point behind his first delivery throughout the set. In the tenth game, with Cobolli serving to stay in the set, Zverev secured the break when the Italian sent a forehand wide at 30-40.

Cobolli reacted immediately, breaking Zverev in the opening game of the fourth set as the 29-year-old German produced two double faults. The Italian was opening up the court with inventive patterns of play, mixing in delicate backhand drop shots and frequent forays to the net. Yet for all his creativity, his consistency wobbled like panna cotta. Zverev broke back in the sixth game, only for Cobolli to return the favour in the following game.

In the tie-break, with the tension so thick you could have strung a violin from it, Zverev appeared to hold the advantage. The German, who had compiled a 26-2 record in Roland Garros tie-breaks, moved ahead 3-1.

Yet Cobolli, brilliant when chasing and far less assured when protecting a lead, responded by reeling off four consecutive points to edge in front 5-3. At 6-4, he earned two set points. The first slipped away when he overplayed an overhead and sent it wide, but he recovered brilliantly on the next, uncorking a forehand winner on Zverev's serve that levelled the match at two sets apiece.

Zverev, who had been clutching his hamstring during the fourth set, received treatment from the trainer at the changeover. Cobolli, meanwhile, left the court after drawing level, keeping the second seed waiting. As the delay stretched on, Zverev rose from his chair and paced along the baseline like a sentinel on watch, perhaps feeling the first signs of cramp. Zverev broke in the opening game of the decider, and then rallied from 0-30, 30-40 to hold for a 2-0 lead. When he broke again for a 3-0 advantage in the decider, the Italian looked out.

'Need to make the child comfortable in senior team'

▶ Continued From Page 1

BCCI's decision to allow Sooryavanshi's parents to accompany him on tours to Sri Lanka, Ireland and England is not merely a compassionate gesture towards a gifted teenager suddenly thrust into the senior Indian dressing room. It is also an acknowledgement of the dizzying, often unforgiving price of stardom that modern cricket now extracts from prodigies before they are old enough to process it.

"Vaibhav's father is arriving today in Sri Lanka... Yesterday, he was also selected for the UK and Ireland T20I tours. So we'll make the offer that if the parents or the father wants to go there, we'll make that arrangement also. This is basically for making the child comfortable in a senior men's team, and that is the basic thing behind it. It's because otherwise he was always travelling with his under-19, junior boys or the sub junior boys team. It meant that he was in his comfort zone. But now he will be in the adult world, and we want to make him comfortable, as he is a 15-year-old kid. Definitely with his parents

CRICKET

around, he'll be more comfortable, subject to his satisfaction and convenience, we are doing it," added Saikia.

A year ago, Sooryavanshi was just another boy from a small town dreaming of making it big. Today, after a staggering IPL 2026 season in which he smashed 776 runs for Rajasthan Royals, collected the Orange Cap, the MVP award and the Emerging Player honour, he travels with an entourage of expectations. While the rise has been breathtaking, so has the scrutiny. If we read what the BCCI secretary Saikia has said, he stresses the words child, kid, comfort and emotional adjustment.

Indian cricket's ecosystem today is far larger and noisier than the one Sachin Tendulkar entered in 1989 as a 16-year-old. Back then, television exposure was limited and social media did not exist. Yet even that environment was considered intimidating enough for Tendulkar's elder brother Ajit to briefly join him during India's tour of Pakistan, as there were security concerns and a hostile atmosphere in and around match-venues. While Ajit Agarkar admitted that Sooryavanshi had "picked himself" through sheer weight of runs, selection seems only the first challenge. Surviving the spotlight will be another.

French Open Champion Credits Mental Transformation, Psychologist Alexis Castori And Lessons From Federer For Her Breakthrough Triumph

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MIRRA'S REFLECTION

Paris: Mirra Andreeva dazzled under the early evening Paris sun, the Coupe Suzanne-Lenglen nestled in her arms. The youngest French Open champion since Monica Seles 34 years ago, 19-year-old Andreeva looked every bit the new star of women's tennis. Yet, as she sat in the media room afterwards,

TENNIS

blonde curls tumbling around her shoulders, it was clear that her greatest triumph was conquering her own inner demons.

Andreeva's talent – that ability to make any shot from anywhere on the court – has never been questioned, but it was obvious from the moment she made her Grand Slam main-draw debut here as a 16-year-old that her emotions could overwhelm her. At Indian Wells earlier this year, and again in Madrid in April, Andreeva suffered public meltdowns. But the work to address those moments had already begun. Early last year, she signed on psychologist Alexis Castori. Before her semifinal against Ukrainian Marta Kostyuk, she got on a call with Castori in Florida. She did the same before the final against Maja Chwalinska.

AFP

ALL SMILES: Mirra Andreeva

Castori told Andreeva that she could choose how she was going to be on court, putting the onus on the teenager while opening a window of possibility. "I chose to be a fighter," Andreeva said. "I watched a lot of Roger's (Federer) matches here, and I felt like I really wanted to try to impersonate the way he behaves on the court, because I love watching him. That helped me because I wanted to look good on the court, not be frustrated or unhappy with how I play. That's what I'm focusing on."

Conchita Martinez, who has been Andreeva's coach since 2024, knew early on that a change was needed for the young star to realise her potential. "I knew things had to change for her to win big things," the 54-year-old Spaniard said. "Sometimes I had doubts. If you don't change something, you make it extra difficult for yourself. Kudos to her for being willing to change, staying open, and doing the hard work. As long as she can continue to learn and get better, there's still plenty of room for improvement in every department. I'm super excited for the future."

The Roland Garros victory has given the new champion the push she probably needed. She described the triumph as "addicting". "These feelings are something extra special," she said. "Now I'm already thinking about how I'm going to prepare for the grass season and how I'm going to play the grass court tournaments. I really want to do my best to experience all of this for a second time."

If Roland Garros was the place where Andreeva announced her talent to the world as a 16-year-old, it is now the place where she proved she can master it. At 19, with a Grand Slam trophy in her possession and her emotions increasingly under control, the challenge may no longer be whether she can win the sport's biggest titles, but how many.

I don't have to change myself, says Shreyas

IANS

Shreyas Iyer's leadership stocks continue to soar. After guiding Delhi Capitals (2020), Kolkata Knight Riders (2024 champions) and Punjab Kings (2025) to IPL finals across different phases of his career, and leading Mumbai to the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title in 2024, the 31-year-old has now been entrusted with India's T20 cap-

IN FOCUS

taincy. albeit delayed, it was a recognition of a leader who has repeatedly delivered in high-pressure environments.

After replacing the immensely successful Suryakumar Yadav as captain, the Mumbai batter made it clear that the added responsibility would not alter his personality or approach. "I don't have to change my personality. I have to be the same person how I was before, and not try to be someone else or be under someone's shadow," Iyer said at an event in Mumbai.

For someone who has emerged from Mumbai's famously ruthless cricket ecosystem, captaincy is merely another challenge to embrace. "I obviously loved challenges growing up, especially being from Mumbai, where the cricket is pretty big, competition is high. Every other kid on the street, they want to represent Mumbai," he said. TNN

Antonelli clinches chaotic race

It Is 19-Year-Old Italian's Fifth Straight Victory This Season

Reuters

CHAMPION: Kimi Antonelli

Monaco: Formula One championship leader Kimi Antonelli stayed ice-cool to win a chaotic Monaco Grand Prix and extend his run of victories this season to five on Sunday. The 19-year-old Italian built a commanding lead after starting from pole in his Mercedes

MONACO GRAND PRIX

but that evaporated after a late red flag to inspect a crumbling surface at the final corner following a crash that took out Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

After a delay of around 40 minutes while repairs were carried out, the race resumed with a standing start but Antonelli remained unfazed as he became the youngest ever winner of the iconic race.

Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton was runner-up for the second successive Grand Prix with Red Bull's Isack Hadjar provisionally third, although he was one of a number of drivers under investigation for a variety of infringements.

Hamilton, who equalled the late Ayrton Senna's eight Monaco podiums, moved above Antonelli's team mate George Russell into second place in the standings, 66 points behind Antonelli. "It's been an incredible weekend and an incredible race," said Antonelli, who was not even born the last time an Italian won the Monaco Grand Prix - Jarno Trulli in 2004.

"We had incredible pace and it all came so natural and that gave me the confidence to push."

A year after finishing last on his F1 debut at Monaco, Antonelli showed incredible poise to shrug off the red flag drama that meant he effectively had to win two races. "I wasn't super keen on re-starting but once the notification came out I just gathered my emotions and re-focused again. Once I got away and was P1 into the first corner I could enjoy the last few laps." REUTERS

'Taking risks is part of Gukesh's identity'

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Oslo: Playing fighting chess and taking risks on the board are "a part of **D Gukesh**'s identity", says his coach Grzegorz Gajewski in an interview to TOI.

"It's a very difficult spot to be where he's at. He is under the spotlight and we are doing all we can in our power to come back to the highest

CHESS

level." The Polish GM, who also worked with V Anand, explained why the 20-year-old world chess champion cannot change his approach and embrace caution.

"He is a fighter and we cannot do much about it," said Gajewski after Gukesh finished last in the Norway Chess, where his compatriot R Praggnanandhaa finished on top. "It's not the most pragmatic thing to do (take risks) and perhaps not the best approach overall. It is something we definitely should keep working on.

"But then, that approach made him the world champion in the first place — that unreal amount of not just confidence but strong willpower, almost like a desperation. "He really needed to do so many things to make this (world title) happen. So I can't really blame the approach."

Gajewski hoped that the World Championship title two years ago was not Gukesh's peak.

Zuccaro bags feature

Bengaluru: Pesi Shroff-trained Zuccaro, ridden by Vivek, won the HH Krishnaraja Wadiyar Cup, the main event at the summer races here on Sunday.

1. The Mystic Memory Plate 1400M: Glorious Strides 1, Eagle Eye 2, Hazel 3, Sicyon 4, 1-2l, 2-3/4l, 2l. T: 1:25.52. Tote: Rs 41 (W). 12, 11, 17 (P). Fc: Rs 140. Q: Rs 50. Shp: Rs 31. Thp: Rs 38. Trinalla: Rs 376 & 245. Exacta: Rs 741 & 224.

2. The Nandi Plate 1400M: Star Comet 1, Southern Force 2, Elveden 3, Dynamic Force 4, 2-3/4l, 1-1/4l, 4l. T: 1:26.74. Tote: Rs 78 (W). 18, 14, 23 (P). Fc: Rs 304. Q: Rs 93. Shp: Rs 38. Thp: Rs 54. Trinalla: Rs 915 & 485. Exacta: Rs 2948 & 1263.

3. The Cnn Family And Friends Legacy Trophy 1200M: Regal Beauty 1, Sensuous 2, Legacy Field 3, Heimirich 4, 1l, 3/4l, Ns. T: 1:13.69. Tote: Rs 31 (W). 10, 19, 14 (P). Fc: Rs 254. Q: Rs 143. Shp: Rs 50. Thp: Rs 35. Trinalla: Rs 483 & 130. Exacta: Rs 3933 & 1555.

4. The Speaker's Cup 1200M: Rieko 1, Flight On 2, Power Of Beauty 3, Victoria Doresaani 4, 2-1/2l, 2-1/4l, 1-1/4l. T: 1:12.36. Tote: Rs 16 (W). 12, 16, 27 (P). Fc: Rs 71. Q: Rs 45. Shp: Rs 42. Thp: Rs 74. Trinalla: Rs 658 & 384. Exacta: Rs 5153 & 1152.

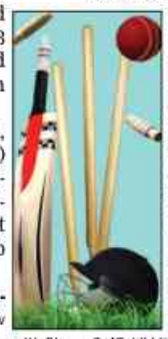
5. The H.H.Krishnaraja Wadiyar Cup 1600M: Zuccaro 1, Mayne Magic 2, Siege Courageous 3, Positano 4, 2-1/2l, 1l, 1-1/2l. T: 1:40.97. Tote: Rs 14 (W). 14, 15 (P). Fc: Rs 37. Q: Rs 29. Shp: Rs 25. Thp: Rs 29. Trinalla: Rs 54 & 16. Exacta: Rs 86 & 56.

6. The Astounding Plate 1600M: Turf Paradise 1, Imperador 2, Pledge 3, Amazing Stride 4. 6-1/2l, 1-3/4l, 4l. T: 1: 41.83. Tote: Rs 32 (W). 15, 26, 11 (P). Fc: Rs 861. Q: Rs 568. Shp: Rs 68. Thp: Rs 37. Trinalla: Rs 1332 & 285. Exacta: Rs 6137 & 4734.

Jackpot: Rs 2768. **Runner-up**: Rs 231. **Mini Jackpot**: Rs 553. **First Treble:** Rs 925. **Second Treble**: Rs 154. TNN

Luvnith, Nikin steal the show

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Bengaluru: Sir Syed Cricketers scored a 24-run win over Century Cricketers in the YSR Memorial Trophy here recently. Nikin Jose SJ (98 & 2-44) and Luvnith Sisodia 118 (89b, 10x4, 6x6) played an important role in Sir Syed's win.

In another match, Ajay Bhide (6-14) starred for Chintamani Sports Association as they beat Modern Cricket Club by six wickets.

Brief scores: Sir Syed Cricketers: 308 in 50 overs (Arnav Mishra 26, Nikin Jose SJ 98, Luvnith Sisodia 118; Sankalp Shettennavar 2-52, Karthik CA 3-46, Madhav P Bajaj 2-60) bt **Century Cricketers: 284 in 48.4 overs** (Harsha Khuba 77, Madhav 35, Tanish Mahesh 50, Kumar LR 2-48, Kushaal Wadhwani 2-53, Rajendra Danganavar 2-52, Nikin 2-44).

Modern CC: 89 in 21.5 overs (Abhay Rangan A 45, Ajay Bhide 6-14, Pradyumna AN 2-15) lost to **Chintamani SA: 91/4 in 10.1 overs** (Gyan Somaiah 58; Mankalesh RJ 4-31).

Engrades CC: 212 in 42 overs (Shreyas 35, Abu 35, Hemanth Patil 68; Ambresh K 3-25, Ritesh Bhatkal 4-44, Abhijit S 2-37) lost to **Palar SC: 216/6 in 35.2 overs** (Abhishek M 40, Preetesh 88; SK Rathod 2-40, Vishnu Balaji 2-33).

Yankees CC: 215 in 48.4 overs (K Akhil 26, Clement Rajmohan K 53, Anirudh Deepak 51, Nitin Reddy N 31; Darshan MB 3-43, Chukka Pavan 3-45, Likhit Bannur 2-34) lost to **Mount Joy CC: 221/8 in 42 overs** (Pareexith Okkunda 30, Syaamantak Anirudh 72, Likhit 58; Nirag Chethan 3-40, Anirudh 3-43).

Bangalore United CC (1): 116/9 in 22 overs (Sharath Srinivas 30, Venkatesh M 26; Vivek Naik 2-25, Shivu M 2-5) lost to **Dooravani Cricketers (1): 118/6 in 20.5 overs** (Keerthi M 31, Harshit Pai 27; Deepak Devadiga 2-30, Rohith Kumar AC 2-26). (Match revised to 22 overs per side due to wet outfield).

Cambridge CC: 252 in 50 overs (Suhas R 42, Shubham Sinha 59, Chinmay NA 67, Rehan Mohammed 34; Neeraj 2-57, Amogh R 4-52, Karthik J 2-36) bt **Minerva CC: 242 in 47.1 overs** (Arnav Bharadwaj 35, Shaurya NS 28, Darshan R 34, Anish KN 89; Omkar HR 2-51, Pranav Aswath 3-43, Advith M Shetty 2-42).

Vijaya CC: 95 in 18.5 overs (Tejas KA 2-14, Maribasava Gowda 3-23, Pranav Bhatia 3-9, Rushi B Shetty 2-18) lost to **Rajajinagar Cricketers: 99/3 in 14.4 overs** (Shivakumar BU 26, Karna Surya Vamshi 30). **Social Cricketers: 224 in 46.4 overs** (Krishav Somasundar 36, Aadarsh Prajwal S 42, Shaun Tristan Joseph 46; Nithin Shanthaveri 2-19, Ishaan S 3-44, Arya Gowda 2-48) bt **Jawans CC: 92 in 23.1 overs** (Arsalaan M 43; Vyshak V 2-8, Shreevathsa R Acharya 4-38, Anmol Mathur 3-14).

Teen Srishti claims runner-up finish

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru's **Srishti Kiran** finished runner-up at the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors tournament in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on Saturday. The 13-year-old, who also suffered cramps and physical discomfort during the latter stages of the match, went down fighting to top seed Ellery Mendell of the USA 4-6, 3-6.

SAMBA FC WIN

Karan Thaparia scored a brace as Samba FC claimed a 5-0 win over Stadium FC in the KSFA 'C' Division Football League Championship in Bengaluru on Sunday. While Soumya Ranjan Kar scored the opener, Yuvraj, and Bharat KA chipped in with one goal each.

Results: 'C' div: Balaharka FC Bangal ore 4 (Tapas Singh 6, Bharath V 38, Rimo KS 46, Mohammed Fazil 54) bt Bangalore North FC 1 (Aakash G 39); Raman Sports Academy 2 (Anush Manthatti 14, Nikhil P 54) bt Samant Sports Academy 1 (Jai Gurudev V 11-og); Samba FC 5 (Soumya Ranjan Kar 4, Yuvraj 15, Bharat KA 21, Karan Thaparia 47, 48) bt Stadium FC 0; Chitradurga 3 (Akram NB 7, Pavan L 10, 43) bt Hawks United Sports FC 1 (Sathish B 47); Alchemy Intl FA

ROUND-UP

7 (Vedanth 2, Wazid Khan 4, Wahengbam 19, 38, MD Mustofa 21, Aayush Kote 20, Paoginlen 23) bt Gopalan FC 0.

'D' div: Mysore United FC 3 (Prakash S 31, 48, Suman R 50+2) drew with FC Real Bengaluru 3 (Shreyas Raj Choudhury 3, Zaid Ahmed Khan 41, Rohit Nair 50); Gajendra Nagar FC 4 (Loganathan 7, Chetan M Chavan 20+1, Saravana M Sara 26, Radha Krishna 36) bt Hyper FC 0.

YOUNG ORION'S TRIUMPH

Young Orion's SC were crowned champions of the NC Parappa state-level basketball tournament in Bengaluru on Sunday.

They registered a 84-71 win over GST & Customs in the final as Sumanth topscored with 20 points while Abhishek Gowda managed 16 for the champions, who took home Rs 75,000. GST & Customs' pocketed Rs 50,000 for their runners-up finish. Earlier in the semifinal, Young Orion's edged past DYES Bangalore 80-72. Meanwhile, in the other last four contest, GST & Customs handed Bank of Baroda a 71-63 defeat.

Results: Final: Young Orion's SC 84 (Sumanth 20, Abhishek Gowda 16) bt GST & Customs 71 (Dheeraj Reddy 23, Pratyanshu Tomar 22) HT: 46-35; **Semis:** 1. Young Orion's 80 (Arjun Yadav 22, Shashank 14) bt DYES Bangalore 72 (Manoj 24, Bathesh 16) HT: 41-40; GST & Customs 71 (Dheeraj 25, Pratyanshu 12) bt Bank of Baroda 63 (Harish 13, Jeo 11) HT: 33-32.

This newspaper is published by Manjeet Singh Dhami from Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., Elvin Chancery Building, 1st, 2nd and 4th Floor, 135, Residency Road, Shanthala Nagar, Bengaluru – 560025 (Phones: Office: EPABX - 080- 42200000; Editorial: 080- 46767676) on behalf of Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., edited by Neelam Raaj and printed by Sekar S at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9-10-11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Ph: 080- 22899999). Regd office: Dr. D.N. Road, Mumbai - 400 001. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. REGD. NO. CPMG/KA/GPO-31/2023-05, RNI NO. 45466/85

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